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Item 99 (b) of the provisional agenda*

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In compliance with General Assembly resolution 48/172 of 21 December 1993, requesting the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of technical cooperation among developing countries in the United Nations development system and on the follow-up to the resolution, the Assembly may wish to take note of the report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session. 1/

2. The ninth session of the High-level Committee reviewed a number of specific reports on technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC):

TCDC/9/2 and Corr.1	Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee and implementation of the recommendations of the South Commission
TCDC/9/3	New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries
TCDC/9/4	Consideration of reports of the Bureau of the High-level Committee and the Administrator of UNDP

3. At its ninth session, the High-level Committee adopted decisions on progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action; new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries; the overall framework for

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the promotion and application of technical cooperation among developing countries; strengthening technical cooperation among developing countries; and the Group of 77/UNDP Award for Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries/Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. 2/

4. The report on the state of South-South Cooperation (A/50/340 and Add.1) contains, inter alia, information on the outcome of the meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (see A/AC.246/1) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/UNCTAD jointly supported Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on South-South Cooperation envisaged in General Assembly resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on the United Nations conference on South-South cooperation.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/50/39).

2/ Ibid., annex I.

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agenda*

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was held in Bridgetown, Barbados from 26 April to 6 May 1994. The General Assembly, at its forty-ninth session considered the Conference under agenda item 89 (e) and in its resolution 49/122 endorsed the outcomes of the Conference, including the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. 1/

2. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, among other things, to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and in that regard also to invite those organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that had not already done so to consider the establishment of focal points and other similar mechanisms to enable them to respond effectively in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The present report has been prepared in response to that request. As requested in paragraph 128 of the Programme of Action, a similar report (A/49/425 and Add.1) was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session; The present report represents an incremental update and does not repeat any information that is already contained in the previous report.

B. Methodology and structure of the report

3. In order to gather the information needed to prepare the report, the Secretariat invited the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to provide information on measures taken to implement the Programme of Action, and requested those that had not already done so at the time of the preparation of the previous report to also provide information on any specific institutional arrangements they had put in place to implement the Programme of Action. A majority of the organizations that were approached responded to the Secretariat's request; they are listed in the annex. A number of organizations and bodies that were not covered in the previous report have since responded with information and are thus covered in the present report for the first time.

4. The report is divided into three chapters: chapter I provides details of the plans and programmes adopted by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action; chapter II reviews the institutional arrangements either already in place or envisaged to support such implementation; and chapter III presents a few concluding observations. Information on specific projects that seem to have implications for programme development and refinement, except for pilot and other experimental projects, is contained in an addendum (A/50/422/Add.1).

I. PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

A. United Nations

1. Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

5. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in paragraph 123, assigns the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat with the primary task of providing secretariat support for facilitating its effective implementation.

6. The Department has focused its attention simultaneously on establishing the appropriate institutional mechanisms for effecting coordination, monitoring and review of the implementation process; monitoring the substantive implementation of the Programme of Action; preparing statutory reports for the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development; and organizing expert group meetings on specific issues on the sustainable development of small island developing States, as called for in General Assembly resolutions 49/122 and 49/100, and/or the Programme of Action.

7. The above-mentioned tasks are carried out by the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department's Division for Sustainable Development. Regarding system-wide coordination, the Department has drawn the attention of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) to the work arising from the Programme of Action. At its sixth meeting (Geneva, 12-14 July 1995), IACSD gave consideration to the matter, in keeping with paragraph 122 of the Programme of Action. Upon the recommendations of the Department, IACSD decided on mechanisms for such coordination. IACSD endorsed the recommendations of the Department for the inclusion of substantive aspects of the Programme of Action in the established inter-agency mechanisms for reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development on the implementation of Agenda 21. 2/ IACSD decided to extend the existing system of task managers to include the coverage of all substantive areas of the Programme of Action that coincide with the specific themes of Agenda 21, and requested task managers to include a separate section on small island developing States in their respective reports. In addition, new task managers were designated for areas of the Programme of Action not covered by Agenda 21, namely, tourism, maritime transport, air transport, energy resources, natural and environmental disasters, and telecommunications.

8. The Department will continue in its role of liaison with IACSD task managers and focal points within organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in ensuring system-wide implementation and coordination of the Programme of Action as well as in the preparation and monitoring of all reports for submission to the General Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant intergovernmental bodies.

9. The institutional modalities for coordination at the regional level have also been addressed with the involvement of the Department. Meetings to discuss the critical issues of coordination and the determination of priorities were convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP):

Meeting of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (20-21 April 1995), and by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Caribbean Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (17-19 May 1995). At those meetings, the Department provided briefings on the issues and work arising from the Programme of Action.

10. The Department convened a meeting of member States of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and representatives of relevant United Nations and non-United Nations organizations and bodies on 8 May 1995, at which the issues of implementation, coordination and the setting of immediate priorities were discussed.

11. The Department has undertaken the preparation of a publication entitled Selected Sources of Funding for Environmental Projects Accessible to AOSIS Member States, for use by Governments and other interested groups or organizations; Selected Sources will be issued shortly as a United Nations publication, and will be revised and updated in the future as additional information becomes available.

12. In addition to the present report, the Department, acting on a mandate contained in paragraph 120 of the Programme of Action, has initiated the preparation of a report on current donor activities in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States, for submission by the Secretary-General to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, when the Commission will conduct an initial review of progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action, preparations for which have been initiated by the Department through IACSD. The Department will prepare that report in collaboration with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other United Nations bodies.

13. As part of the preparation of thematic reports for the above-mentioned session, the Department has undertaken to prepare, in collaboration with UNEP, a comprehensive report on the sustainable development of tourism in small island developing States.

14. An issue of considerable importance to small island developing States and specifically requested in the Programme of Action is the development and construction of a vulnerability index. Work is currently under way in the Department to convene, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), a meeting of experts from within and outside the United Nations system on approaches to the index. The conclusions and recommendations of that expert group meeting will also be submitted to the fourth session of the Commission. Actual construction of the index will begin thereafter, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission.

15. The Department plans to begin work on the compilation of an information database on small island developing States for use by task managers and other interested parties, to be linked with similar databases held by other organizations.

16. An important facet of the work of the Department in its monitoring and coordination activities concerns the involvement of a number of major non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Department has established a dialogue with several major non-governmental organizations regarding their specific activities, which range from the convening of seminars and conferences on selective aspects of the Programme of Action to actual implementation of specific provisions of the Programme of Action.

2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

17. UNCTAD continues to carry out the activities reported previously (see A/49/425 and Add.1); planned activities reported therein are also currently under implementation.

18. As indicated previously (see A/49/425), UNCTAD will undertake further activities - in the areas of science and technology, human resource development, regional economic cooperation, institutional capacity-building, and measurement of the vulnerability of small island developing countries - when its capacity is strengthened, as recommended in paragraph 127 of the Programme of Action.

19. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/100, invited the Commission on Sustainable Development to convene, during its session in 1996, a high-level panel to discuss the challenges faced by island developing countries, particularly in the area of external trade, and to assist the Commission in its review of the implementation of the Programme of Action. The panel is to be organized by UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

3. United Nations Environment Programme

20. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has incorporated many of the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States into its 1996-1997 work programme, which was adopted at the eighteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council, in May 1995.

21. More specifically, in its decision 18/34 on small island developing States, the Council welcomed the action already taken by the Executive Director, including the establishment of a focal point and task force within UNEP to coordinate UNEP activities relevant to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; urged the Executive Director to ensure that, in implementing the work programme agreed by the Council, appropriate attention be given to the needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States; and encouraged an integrated approach within UNEP to addressing issues of relevance to small island developing States through the effective use and involvement of the Task Force in both programme and policy development.

22. The 1996-1997 UNEP work programme gives priority to translating the Programme of Action into mechanisms that can help small island developing States

put in place policies and strategies to achieve sustainable economic and human development. While still undergoing further development and review, the work programme has identified the following programme elements in which special consideration will be given to small island developing States: (a) caring for freshwater, coastal and marine environments, and (b) caring for biological resources.

23. UNEP recognizes that the development challenges being faced by small island developing States can only be tackled through an integrated approach to the management of human activities and their supporting resource base. UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will continue to make a joint effort to promote integrated island management in small island developing States, while developing closer ties with the programmes of other United Nations bodies that have similar goals.

24. Current and planned UNEP activities and programmes are set out below within each of the priority areas of the Programme of Action. Only information additional to that contained in the previous report (A/49/425) is listed here. Previously reported UNEP activities will in general continue but at reduced funding levels, due to an overall reduction in the Environment Fund.

(a) Climate change and sealevel rise

25. UNEP co-sponsored with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It prepared a special report for the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1995, and a second assessment report will become available later in 1995. The information provided through the Panel should be of considerable value to small island developing States, particularly information on the vulnerability of States to sealevel rise and its impacts. The reports provide essential information to enable the development of effective adaptive strategies.

26. A special project on climate change impacts and adaptations assessment will be initiated in Antigua and Barbuda. The following activities will be undertaken: (a) a country-wide vulnerability assessment; (b) in-depth studies in areas and sectors identified as particularly vulnerable, and (c) identification and testing of adaptation options. This activity will assist other small island developing States in formulating comprehensive strategies and measures to facilitate their adaptation to climate change and sealevel rise through the development of management tools and plans.

27. Current and planned UNEP activities within this priority area also include: (a) a number of country and site-specific case studies in the south-west Pacific, Indo-East African and Caribbean subregions on the vulnerability of selected small island developing States to the effects of climate change and sealevel rise and their socio-economic implications; and (b) the development and application of a decision-support system that will allow policy analysts to anticipate, explore and counter the risks associated with climate change and sealevel rise in small island developing States.

(b) Natural and environmental disasters

28. The joint UNEP/Habitat Task Force on the Continuum from Relief to Development will continue to address a wide range of disaster-related issues in the natural and man-made environments, including many that are of particular concern to small island developing States such as their peculiar vulnerability factors. UNEP is working with subregional bodies, such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme and the Caribbean Environment Programme, to promote improved hazard-risk mapping (landslide, flood prone areas etc.) as a means to plan and prepare for the effects of disasters.

(c) Management of wastes

29. New activities that are presently being considered within the context of the 1996-1997 UNEP work programme include: (a) preparation of a handbook on cleaner production in small island developing States aimed at raising awareness and providing information and concrete examples on cleaner production technology solutions, and (b) train the trainer workshops on environmental management systems for small island developing States. Activities under this priority area will complement similar activities under the priority areas "Coastal and marine resources" and "Freshwater resources".

(d) Coastal and marine resources

30. Building upon earlier activities and based on qualitative and quantitative assessments of the coastal and marine pollution loads from land-based sources in the eastern African subregion, including the Comoros and Seychelles, the planned development of a regional overview and strategy will lead to the implementation of various additional activities, such as monitoring programmes. A coastal profile for Grand Comoros is currently in preparation that will result in the development of an integrated coastal area strategy by the end of 1995. Within the context of the 1996-1997 UNEP work programme, it is anticipated that the Comoros will comprise demonstration or pilot projects in integrated island management. The demonstration projects will be closely linked to similar activities under the priority area entitled "Freshwater resources".

31. The environmental assessment and information management activities previously reported now include the development of a geographical analysis laboratory within the University of the South Pacific. This will support the development of data analysis and applications skills in the western Pacific. The geographical analysis skills, environmental information systems and state-of-the-environment assessment activities identified under this priority area are also relevant to the following priority areas: "Freshwater resources", "Land resources", "Tourism resources", "Biodiversity resources", "National institutions and administrative capacity" and "Regional institutions and technical cooperation".

(e) Freshwater resources

32. UNEP activities within this priority area will be expanded to include a greater number of diagnostic studies on small island developing States and action planning for the environmentally sound integrated management of freshwater resources within the context of sustainable development. Recognizing the real linkages between the fresh and marine waters of small island developing States and the integrating role of the hydrological cycle, pollution control and resource management activities associated with freshwater will complement similar activities under the priority areas "Coastal and marine resources" and "National institutions and administrative capacity".

(f) Land resources

33. UNEP, jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the South Pacific Institute for Research, Extension and Training in Agriculture, and SPREP, plans - subject to the availability of resources - to implement a project for providing small island developing States of the South Pacific subregion with improved knowledge for natural resources appraisal and ecosystem analysis, using the World Soil and Terrain Digital Database/ Geographical Information System. In cooperation with Habitat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP is coordinating activities in the Caribbean in the area of environmental information management, specifically geographic information system development, for environmentally sustainable land use planning and settlements development.

(g) Tourism resources

34. New activities that are presently being considered within the context of the 1996-1997 UNEP work programme include: (a) training workshops on environmental management of hotels, and (b) training workshops on environmentally sound forms of tourism development. These would be based on existing programmes that will be modified to meet the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States. Other activities related to tourism are included under "Coastal and marine resources" and "Freshwater resources".

(h) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

35. Ongoing UNEP activities in this area will include the control of land-based sources of pollution that degrade their waters in the programme priorities for 1995 of the International Waters Strategy of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), of which UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank are implementing agencies. This could be an important step in helping UNEP and other agencies address problems in small island developing States.

36. In the programme areas "Energy resources", "Biodiversity resources", "Science and technology", "Human resource development" and "National institutions and administrative capacity", UNEP activities will continue unchanged (see A/49/425). Additional information on specific UNEP activities in the area of national institutions and administrative capacity is included in an addendum (A/50/422/Add.1).

4. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

37. Habitat gives the highest priority to supporting the efforts of small island developing States to elaborate strategies for the integrated management of their economic and social activities, natural resources and environment. Habitat research and development activities focus on the formulation and application of planning and management instruments in key areas of small island developing States' development, such as land use and settlements planning; infrastructure provision; waste minimization and pollution control; and natural and environmental disaster mitigation. A substantial part of Habitat capacity-building and direct support capability on settlements issues is directed to technical cooperation activities in small island developing States. Habitat is particularly active in the execution of technical support programmes in the countries of the Caribbean and Pacific subregions.

38. Issues related to sustainable settlements development in small island developing States are being considered in the preparatory process for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), scheduled to be held in Istanbul in June 1996. Those issues will represent an important component of the declaration of principles and global plan of action to be adopted at Habitat II.

(a) Climate change and sealevel rise

39. Habitat is collaborating with UNEP in the preparation of case studies and training materials on the impact of climate change on coastal populations and human settlements. Selected small island developing States will participate in the initial activities of the project, which focus on the Indo-East African subregion. It is expected that the successful completion of the project could lead to the execution of a wider capacity-building programme in other regions and small island developing States.

(b) Natural and environmental disasters

40. Habitat is providing support to several Caribbean small island developing States in the application of building codes and standards especially designed for seismic and hurricane-prone areas. General codes and standards developed under an earlier Habitat programme are now being applied to specific Caribbean countries as part of a collaborative programme with the Organization of American States and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

41. Following the creation of the Habitat UNEP/Task Force on the Continuum from Relief to Development, Habitat is establishing a disaster management unit to support its operational activities related to disaster prevention and rehabilitation in the area of human settlements. Particular issues related to the vulnerability of small island developing States to natural and technological disasters will be addressed by the activities of the unit.

(c) Management of wastes

42. Habitat is executing several field research activities on municipal solid-waste management in developing countries. Pilot projects take into account the

specific characteristics of small island developing States in relation to waste generation and disposal, fragile ecosystems, limited resource base, geographical isolation and scarce human resources. Strategies for sustainable resource utilization and recovery, as well as for waste minimization, are integral components of such activities. In order to develop and maximize the utilization of indigenous capacities, pilot projects focus on the promotion of private-sector and community participation in waste management.

43. The regional offices of the Urban Management Programme (UMP) are actively promoting the execution of national consultations on sanitation and environmental infrastructure services in small island developing States. The UMP office for Latin America and the Caribbean has made an evaluation of solid-waste management needs in the Caribbean, and it is programming the execution of follow-up national consultations. The UMP regional office for Asia and the Pacific is supporting Pacific island States in the execution of national consultations on urban management and environmental sanitation.

44. As a result of their review of waste management conditions in small island developing States, Habitat and UNEP have initiated the formulation of a proposal for a global project on waste minimization and pollution prevention in small island developing States. The proposal emphasises, inter alia, the strengthening of regional and national capacities and institutions for waste minimization and pollution control; the introduction of monitoring and auditing techniques; technology transfer and the production of information referral instruments; and the development of management tools through field applications. It is envisaged that the final proposal will be submitted for GEF funding.

(d) Coastal and marine resources

45. Habitat is collaborating with UNEP on the formulation of integrated plans for settlements and coastal zone management in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The project is developing guidelines and management tools for the incorporation of marine and coastal zone considerations into settlements planning. It is expected that the management instruments to be developed by the project will be replicated in other small island developing States.

(e) Land resources

46. Habitat has a broad programme of operational activities in support of small island developing States for the formulation and application of land-use and management plans, and land development control instruments and legislation. Habitat technical cooperation programmes consider land-use planning as an integral component of overall environmental and national development management. Habitat is in the process of expanding its programme on human settlements and related environmental management issues in the Caribbean in collaboration with OECS, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and UNDP. The new programme puts emphasis on strengthening the linkages between natural resources and environmental management and the planning of land use and settlements for social and economic activities.

(f) Tourism resources

47. The dramatic increase of tourism in small island developing States is rapidly changing traditional development patterns and is exerting additional pressure on their resource base and the environment. Habitat operational activities support the formulation of land-use and settlement development plans in Caribbean small island States, giving special attention to the effect of tourism on land use, settlement planning and infrastructure requirements.

(g) National institutions and administrative capacity

48. Current and planned Habitat operational activities in small island developing States aim to build the capacity of national institutions in formulating land-use and settlements development plans, development control and the application of management information systems. Habitat projects are giving increasing attention to strengthening the capacity of local authorities (municipalities) to perform such functions.

49. Consultations with local stakeholders in settlement development are an integral part of Habitat technical assistance programmes. National consultations aim to increase settlements' efficiency by promoting the participation of the private sector and communities in management processes. Efforts are also being made to establish institutional coordination mechanisms for the integration of land-use and settlement planning in overall environmental and national development management.

(h) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

50. Current and planned Habitat activities include collaboration with regional institutions in the Caribbean region, namely, CARICOM and OECS, as well as research and academic institutions, through regional and subregional programmes in human settlements planning and management. Habitat is also collaborating with other regional bodies, ESCAP, ECLAC and OAS in the execution of technical cooperation activities in small island developing States.

(i) Science and technology

51. Habitat has established a significant in-house capacity to support countries in developing and applying technical instruments for land-use and settlement planning. Geographical information systems (GIS), visual information systems for settlement planning and indicators for human settlement management are some of the technologies developed by Habitat and currently being disseminated and applied in small island developing States as part of its operational activities.

(j) Human resources development

52. Habitat operational activities in this priority area cover advanced training programmes extended through fellowships and attachments, workshops, seminars and consultations on settlement planning and integrated island development management. Given the limited human resource base of small island developing States, Habitat promotes the strengthening of regional training

institutions and horizontal exchange as key elements of its human resource development activities.

5. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

53. In 1993, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) prepared a training module on the theme "Women and waste management". This module provides an integrated approach to water supply, sanitation and waste management, and women's role in the organization and management of waste management programmes and projects. The module contains examples of successful experiences of women's role in waste management schemes in various countries, including small island developing States.

54. In the area of "Freshwater resources", INSTRAW, in collaboration with the former Department for Technical Cooperation and Development of the United Nations Secretariat and the International Labour Organization (ILO)/Turin Centre in Italy, prepared in 1991 a multimedia training package on the theme "Women, water supply and sanitation". This training package provides a new approach to the organization and management of water supply through participation in the planning, technical operations, maintenance, assessment and implementation of water supply and sanitation projects.

55. INSTRAW has also given priority to promoting women's participation in new and renewable sources of energy, in accordance with the priority area "Energy resources". In 1990, the Institute, in cooperation with the ILO/Turin Centre, prepared a training package on the theme "Women and new and renewable sources of energy". The training package aims to promote the integration of women's needs and their participation in energy project planning and implementation, paying special attention to the development and use of new and renewable sources of energy. From 1990 to date, seven national, regional and international training seminars have been held.

56. Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Institute's programme has responded more directly to the guidelines and recommendations of the Conference. Environmental challenges are considered within the framework of combating poverty; hunger and disease; ensuring better access to education and health care; and productive resources, such as water, energy and environmentally sound technologies. For example, in 1994, INSTRAW prepared a comprehensive training manual on women, environmental management and sustainable development". The aim of this manual is to assist policy makers and development officials in enabling more participatory roles for women in sustainable development and environmental management, and to establish multisectoral and multidisciplinary linkages between women, sustainable development and environmental matters. The manual contains four modules on (a) women and environmental health; (b) women as agents of change in the development sector; (c) women as managers of the environment; and (d) women, environmental indicators and capacity-building programmes.

57. Although INSTRAW research and training activities under the above-mentioned areas are of world-wide scope, its main recommendations and the analyses and

strategies that they propose can be applied to the environmental and developmental problems facing small island developing States. In its 1996-1998 work programme, INSTRAW will seek special funds for conducting training in small island developing States.

6. United Nations University

58. The United Nations University (UNU) has established the Small Islands Network to strengthen and link research related to small islands. The Network involves the academic community. As an autonomous organization, UNU tackles difficult problems in close cooperation with the universities of the world, and develops research and training programmes to deal with the latest issues in sustainable small island development. The functions of the Small Islands Network are the following:

(a) To network the global academic community and link scholars so as to strengthen the academic role in the sustainable development process, by fostering increased interaction among interested scholars and organizations for the purposes of promoting research, training and the dissemination of information related to small islands;

(b) To integrate research on small islands and sustainable development under the auspices of a global network of scholars, reduce research overlap and promote collaboration in research efforts, where possible;

(c) To create a small islands information base to act as a point source directory of scholars, organizations and research findings pertaining to small islands and sustainable development;

(d) To disseminate and provide information to responsible United Nations and government bodies, as well as policy makers, official development assistance (ODA)-related donor and recipient Governments, corporations, and non-governmental organizations, for effective environmental management, risk management and government strategies for sustainable development at the global, regional and local levels;

(e) To run electronic seminars and develop a body of scholars that can act as a global think tank to test and provide scholarly input to new ideas, concepts, issues, research proposals and development projects related to small island development issues.

59. Research and training activities incorporate regional and global perspectives, with an overall focus on environmental management and governance. The objective of Network activities is to provide research methodologies and training for the purposes of developing, supporting and promoting comprehensive and integrated development policy planning and management. Impetus for the proposed set of activities to be implemented by UNU was derived from an examination of the lines of action recommended in Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Network activities will centre on three major thematic areas:

I

Appropriate technology transfer and training

As a first step, UNU will accumulate data and technology available in Okinawa, Japan, to see what technology is available for small islands and how that technology may be transferred, including through ODA. To that end, UNU will liaise with the UNEP Environmental Technology Transfer Centre at Osaka, especially in the area of water technology.

As a second step, UNU will encourage the development and implementation of the zero emissions concept to technological transfer and development. This builds on the Zero Emissions project of UNU, and focuses primarily on beer brewing and sugar industry restructuring.

II

Sustainable management of ecosystems

UNU maintains major programmes in land management and natural disaster risk management, which will be extended to small islands. In particular, its work in responding to the needs of the International Decade for National Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) has particular applications for small islands. The approach will focus on training the trainers and risk preparedness.

III

Environmental law and governance

Environmental governance is a major area in which UNU is undertaking work within its environmental programme. The project being developed focuses primarily on the Pacific Islands, and is concerned with designing new frameworks for regional cooperation among small islands to promote sustainable development. In particular, mechanisms for cooperation among the islands in tourism, fisheries, energy, population/migration and export/import management are of key concern. UNU will work with key institutional bodies in the region in this area.

60. The above-mentioned activities are rounded out by the inclusion of two further related areas for action by UNU:

(a) Academic capacity-building and education, which is concerned with supporting the development and capacity-building of academic institutions to effectively educate in environmental issues;

(b) A small island forums series, concerned with promoting regional economic cooperation and the effective utilization of resources for sustainable development.

61. While focusing on the academic community, the UNU Small Islands Network will include a public education function by informing local non-governmental

organizations of research efforts and their results through electronic and audio-visual and other means.

7. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction/ Department of Humanitarian Affairs

62. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat was entrusted, in General Assembly resolution 46/182, with the task of strengthening and making more effective the collective efforts of the international community, particularly those of the United Nations system, in providing humanitarian assistance. The Emergency Relief Coordinator, as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, directs the Department's efforts to ensure both a rapid, integrated and effective international response to humanitarian emergencies, and the implementation of measures for disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation.

63. In order to give particular attention to the aspects of natural disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness related to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Department will serve as task manager for this issue and will prepare a report for the Commission on Sustainable Development through its focal point, the Director of the IDNDR secretariat, in close collaboration with WMO and in cooperation with other interested organizations.

64. The IDNDR secretariat within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs works with countries to reduce their vulnerability to disasters. Guided by its 25-member Scientific and Technical Committee, and promoted at the national level by national committees and focal points, the objective of IDNDR is to increase international cooperation to reduce the loss of life, economic damage and social disruption that disasters can cause. The concerted inter-agency approach of the United Nations system to IDNDR is being ensured by the Inter-Agency Committee on IDNDR and its working group.

65. The Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action (A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I) adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in May 1994, as well as subsequent resolutions of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly including resolution 49/22 A, and the substantive session of 1995 of the Economic and Social Council, have emphasized the particular challenge that natural disasters pose for small island developing States. They point to the specific need for international cooperation in support of the concrete reduction of vulnerability to natural hazards as an indispensable component for sustainable development.

66. The South Pacific Programme Office of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs is implementing the South Pacific Disaster Reduction Programme. This is a four-year regional programme being implemented in 15 Pacific island countries. The programme started in May 1994 and is funded by UNDP and eight bilateral donors. The programme provides training and technical assistance to Governments and non-governmental organizations; produces materials, such as guidelines and manuals; helps to develop and implement national disaster mitigation and preparedness programmes; and facilitates regional cooperation and coordination

in disaster management. The Department also carries out missions to assist small island developing States in improving disaster management organizations and starting up disaster mitigation projects. Recent missions were undertaken to Cape Verde and Papua New Guinea.

B. Funds and programmes

1. United Nations Development Programme

(a) A framework for cooperation on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

67. On the basis of UNDP consultations with the small island developing States, particularly with AOSIS and relevant subregional and regional United Nations bodies, it was felt that the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States could be maximized through the establishment of a clear framework for cooperation among all the development partners involved in the process. That framework will strive to promote coherence and to realign, as appropriate, relevant ongoing activities at all levels in support of the objectives of the Programme of Action, while focusing on unmet priority needs in technical cooperation, with particular emphasis on capacity-building under the 14 priority areas of the Programme of Action. While the main responsibility for the creation of such a framework should reside with small island developing States themselves since they are primarily responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action, UNDP will none the less seek to facilitate that creation.

(b) Development of the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme Information Network

68. In paragraphs 9 (a) and 9 (b) of General Assembly resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994, the Assembly requested the further development of the small island developing States technical assistance programme (SIDS/TAP) and the small island developing States information network (SIDS/NET), on which UNDP had prepared feasibility studies, on the basis of continuing consultations with small island developing States and other interested parties - including in regard to SIDS/NET relevant small island developing States technical experts - so as to determine the most effective means for their implementation. In paragraph 8 of the same resolution, the Assembly endorsed the request of the Global Conference that UNDP continue to carry out its lead agency mandate under Agenda 21 to organize the United Nations system in the area of capacity-building for the sustainable development of small island developing States at all levels, national, regional and interregional, particularly through its network of country offices.

Small island developing States technical assistance programme: a central element of the strategy

69. At the subregional, regional and interregional levels, the small island developing States technical assistance programme that is being developed represents an important instrument, particularly in regard to the use of

technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) mechanisms for furthering the implementation of the Programme of Action. SIDS/TAP is designed to facilitate the exchange and transfer of experiences, knowledge, policies and practices among small island developing States intraregionally and interregionally, and between small island developing States and other countries to enhance the quality and broaden the choice of sustainable development approaches of small island developing States.

70. In the context of SIDS/TAP, UNDP has initiated activities to carry out assessment-cum-project formulation exercises in the various small island developing States subregions. These are designed to identify unmet priorities in technical cooperation, with particular emphasis on capacity-building, and to formulate TCDC-based technical cooperation activities to address those priorities. Such exercises, which should be completed before the end of the year, involve appropriate experts from within the regions and from national and regional institutions. They will follow a careful process of consultation with all stakeholders to ensure support for the priorities identified. The objective is to develop an inventory of small island developing States priorities in the various subregions for the purpose of mobilizing support and funding for their realization.

71. In keeping with the request of operative paragraph 9 (a) of the above-mentioned resolution, UNDP has been collecting, over the last several months, data relevant to the preparation of a directory of institutions and scholars with expertise on small island developing States. The collection of this information has involved the concerned UNDP country offices, which have engaged national expertise to undertake the gathering of relevant data for the purpose. The directory will be substantially completed by the end of the current calendar year. When completed, it will be made available in hard copy and will also be accessible via the Information Referral System of the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC.

Small Island Developing States Information Network: the information support mechanism

72. The Global Conference recognized as a development constraint the lack of access by small island developing States to information on a range of subject areas of importance to them; SIDS/NET was conceived against that background. It is an information system designed to provide access through the Internet to information, knowledge, experiences, policies and practices on a range of technical subject areas of importance to small island developing States, including those falling under the 14 priority areas of the Programme of Action. The system aims at providing connectivity and access to existing databases at the national, regional and global levels, such as the Small Islands Information Network organized by the Institute of Island Studies. Its main objective is to provide access rather than to create databases, many of which already exist in many specialized national and regional institutions both within and outside of small island developing States. In recognition of the disparity in the levels of computer development of the countries concerned, SIDS/NET is being structured so that individual countries can phase in connectivity to SIDS/NET on a gradual, modular basis in tandem with their overall national computer and telecommunications development.

73. In keeping with paragraph 9 (b) of General Assembly resolution 49/122, UNDP is continuing its consultations with small island developing States and relevant organizations in the further development of SIDS/NET. UNDP has widely disseminated the SIDS/NET feasibility study, as well as the related technical papers, to information specialists in small island developing States. This distribution included a questionnaire that focuses on key issues requiring clarification and decision in regard to the development of a strategy for the implementation of SIDS/NET. Responses are expected shortly from the countries concerned on the basis of which a decision will be taken on the steps necessary for the effective implementation of the system.

(c) Elements of UNDP support

Support at the subregional, regional and interregional levels

74. Within the framework strategy and consistent with General Assembly resolution 49/122, UNDP substantive support for the implementation of the Programme of Action will be carried out at two levels. The first level of support will be at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, through its role in the operationalization of already dedicated facilities - SIDS/TAP and SIDS/NET - and also through significant UNDP-supported ongoing regional and interregional activities financed from the Indicative Planning Figure (IPF), Special Programme Resources (SPR), GEF and the Capacity 21 Fund.

Support at the country level

75. The second level of UNDP support will be at the country level in the context of its standing mandate through the UNDP resident representative/United Nations resident coordinator systems to assist Governments in coordinating the operational activities of the United Nations development system. In that connection, UNDP has mobilized its country office structure in the various small island developing States subregions to play an advocacy role for the Programme of Action at the national level; help mobilize support and funding from country-based entities, including the non-governmental organizations community, the private sector and the locally based international community; and support the formulation of small island developing States national action plans, through which countries can seek such support. Furthermore, UNDP support is also provided in the context of its country programme activities in small island developing States, in which technical cooperation takes place through national IPF funding, as well as through funding from SPR, GEF and the Capacity 21 Fund, in many cases in areas covered by some priority areas of the Programme of Action.

76. At both the supranational and country levels, UNDP will assist countries in addressing issues of coherence, coordination, focus and advocacy in the context of the Programme of Action. At both levels, it will continue to provide relevant technical assistance and, in the case of its support to SIDS/TAP and SIDS/NET, it will also act as facilitator and mobilizer of resources for the countries concerned.

Other plans and programmes

77. Climate change and sealevel rise. Through a GEF small grants programme managed by UNDP, country activities targeting indigenous non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, such as those in the Dominican Republic on education for the protection of the ozone layer, and awareness programmes for public motorcyclists on the hazards of carbon monoxide emissions, are particularly relevant to the priority area.

78. Natural and environmental disasters. In both the Caribbean and the Pacific Island subregions, UNDP is supporting natural disaster management and reduction programmes through regional IPF funding. Those activities are intended to create national and regional capacities for dealing with natural and technological disasters as they occur, and also to address the preparation and implementation of contingency response measures and comprehensive long-term disaster management plans integrated into the national development planning process.

79. In the context of the country programmes of some small island developing States, UNDP has also supported, through the country IPF, the preparation of national disaster management plans and disaster management training of public officials, including participants from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and local community leaders.

80. Management of wastes. The UNDP Special Unit for TCDC is currently supporting, through funding from its SPR, an interregional programme that is developing a monograph on effective urban management practices, including urban waste disposal approaches, which will serve as background documentation for a series of regional workshops in which selected small island developing States will participate. The monograph as well as the results and findings of the regional meetings will be presented to (Habitat II).

2. United Nations Population Fund

81. UNFPA has reported a continuation of its activities as previously reported (see A/49/425 and Add.1). UNFPA has also reported that those activities will fall within its technical assistance programme, emphasizing in particular the needs of adolescents.

3. United Nations Children's Fund

82. Activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will continue as previously reported (see A/49/425 and Add.1). In addition, UNICEF has reported that over the past 18 months it has been working closely with the Governments of 13 Pacific island countries to develop a new programme of cooperation for 1997-2000. A draft policy framework has proposed five broad strategic goals, one of which calls for strengthening capacities of Governments, non-governmental organizations, communities and families to promote the optimal survival, development and protection of their children. Environmental degradation has been identified as an underlying cause of malnutrition and health problems among

children. Large-scale, high-chemical-input cash-cropping is decreasing land fertility and availability, while pollution is affecting the safety of food products, especially marine resources. Use of indigenous plants and sustainable gardening patterns with low-input technologies, such as composting, crop rotation, companion planting, and natural insecticides, will be part of the UNICEF approach to producing food while protecting the environment. A working group meeting on the formulation of priorities and strategies for the UNICEF Solomon Islands Programme of Cooperation recommended that school curricula should include environment issues and that non-formal community environmental education should be promoted.

4. World Food Programme

83. Plans and programmes of the World Food Programme (WFP) continue as previously reported (see A/49/425 and Add.1).

5. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

84. Activities of the United National International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) continue as previously reported (see A/49/425 and Add.1). In addition, UNDCP has reported that it has been assisting the Governments of small island developing States, particularly within the Caribbean subregion, to develop and implement national, subregional and regional programmes aimed at reducing the illicit cultivation, trafficking and abuse of drugs, and also at improving the effectiveness of controls over the legal supply of drugs. In addition to a number of national projects being supported by earmarked UNDCP resources - mostly in the area of demand reduction - UNDCP is financing a number of regional projects in the areas of the coordination of police activities; customs cooperation; the training of judicial personnel; the harmonization of legislation; the drug curriculum; the harmonization of forensic laboratories; and the training of laboratory technicians.

C. Specialized agencies

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

85. FAO follow-up to the Programme of Action is largely based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Inter-Regional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, held in Barbados from 7 to 10 April 1992. 3/ Paragraph 34 of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States notes that those conclusions and recommendations contain the consensus position of small islands in the agricultural sector. Accordingly, FAO has incorporated the recommendations into its programme of work, and the Director-General has created two subregional offices, one for the South Pacific and one for the Caribbean.

(a) Natural and environmental disasters

86. The objective of the FAO assistance is to rehabilitate the agricultural sector in case of emergencies and natural disasters.

(b) Coastal and marine resources

87. The FAO Committee on Fisheries endorsed a proposal for a programme of fisheries assistance to small island developing States in March 1995. Programme formulation has been initiated for action in the six priority areas identified by member countries: (a) institutional strengthening and national capacity-building; (b) conservation and management of exclusive economic zone fisheries; (c) improved post-harvest management and marketing; (d) safety at sea; (e) strengthening the economic role of national fisheries industries; and (f) aquaculture and inland fisheries conservation and management.

(c) Land resources

88. Sustainable agriculture and rural development has three essential goals: (a) food security through an appropriate and sustainable balance between self-sufficiency and self-reliance; (b) employment and income generation in rural areas, particularly to eradicate poverty; and (c) natural resource conservation and environmental protection. Achieving those goals implies a long process requiring a comprehensive approach and heavy investments of labour, capital, technology and research, all of which are rare in small island developing States. In order to open up avenues for improving small island developing States capacity for the sustainable development of their resources, technical cooperation is being promoted by organizing efforts more systematically, for instance with programmed subregional support from the international community (both FAO and other development agencies) with ongoing assistance in small island developing States. Two subregional programmes are being formulated for sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the South Pacific and Caribbean islands. Those programmes will be reviewed and endorsed at two subregional workshops, one in Samoa in March 1996, and - subject to availability of donor funding - one in Barbados, tentatively in April 1996. The programme frameworks will allow harmonizing activities in small island developing States, in particular those related to coastal and marine resources; land resources, including agriculture, nutrition and forestry; agro-biodiversity; human and institutional strengthening; and regional cooperation. Those programmes will be the basis for elaborating subregional strategies for sustainable agriculture and rural development, and for the identification of specific project proposals for subregional technical cooperation and capacity-building. The implementation of the outputs emerging from the subregional programmes will be closely followed up by the newly created FAO subregional offices in the South Pacific and Caribbean.

(d) Tourism resources

89. Within the context of sustainable agriculture and rural development, the diversification of primary production and income generation are high on the agenda. The vital link between tourism and agriculture is being explored for promoting a regional response from the sector to meet the standards of quality,

quantity and regularity of supplies of agricultural commodities to the tourism sector.

(e) Biodiversity resources

90. Within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, agro-biodiversity conservation and use as well as farmer's rights are promoted.

(f) National institutions and administrative capacity

91. National institutional strengthening is promoted through the provision of policy advice, assistance in policy formulation and data collection/processing for managing the conservation and use of natural resources for sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

(g) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

92. Technical cooperation and capacity-building among island countries is promoted through regional projects in order to make the most efficient use of human resources and promote the exchange of experience and technology in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The subregional workshops mentioned under "Land resources", planned for 1996, will offer the means to establish collaborative arrangements and networking in those sectors.

(h) Human resource development

93. National education/training and workshops are organized to build farmers and fishermen capacities to sustainably use natural resources and diversify their primary production.

2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

94. During the 1994-1995 biennium, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) have pursued and carried out a number of initiatives in response to the Programme of Action, in particular the priority areas dealing with human resource development, science and technology, coastal and marine resources, climate change and sealevel rise, biodiversity, freshwater resources, and natural and environmental disasters. The UNESCO medium-term strategy for 1996-2001 and programme and budget for 1996-1997 both provide for the follow-up to the Global Conference.

(a) Climate change and sealevel rise/coastal and marine resources

95. IOC has been extending its programme on sealevel rise, climate change and marine and coastal pollution. IOCARIBE, an IOC programme in the Caribbean, manages the Caribbean Marine Pollution Control and Abatement Programme, which is addressing marine and coastal pollution problems of regional concern and is the lead agency for the Wider Caribbean Debris/Waste Management Programme, which is fully operational in almost every island in the Caribbean.

96. In the framework of the geological correlation studies and in cooperation with the International Lithosphere Programme of the International Council of Scientific Unions, sealevel changes and surface vertical movements are being investigated in order to characterize the interactions of climate change, sealevel rise and natural and environmental disasters.

(b) Natural and environmental disasters

97. As a follow-up to the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, assistance is provided towards the assessment of natural hazards and the mitigation of their effects on small islands. To mark the mid-term of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, planning for risk evaluation in urban systems, including island cities was discussed at an international workshop organized by UNESCO in Jakarta. It is expected that the Pacific island countries will be the focus of enhanced activities in disaster preparedness. A programme of action is being pursued in the Caribbean in order to increase the role of the media in disaster management and preparedness, in liaison with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency. The production of an information kit is foreseen.

(c) Coastal and marine resources

98. Central to the priority area is a new UNESCO specific interdisciplinary project on environment and development in coastal regions and small islands, which is intended to respond to both the Programme of Action and chapter 17 of Agenda 21. The overall objective of the project is to advance knowledge on the sustainable development of coastal regions and small islands, to promote the application of research results towards achieving this development, and to provide the required advanced training. UNESCO aims to assist member States in introducing integrated coastal zone planning and management so as to resolve conflicts in the utilization of natural resources and to mitigate the physical and social vulnerability of small islands. In this connection, the project builds on cooperative activities among international and intergovernmental UNESCO programmes in the environmental and social sciences, namely, IOC programmes, the Man and Biosphere Programme, the International Hydrological Programme, the International Geological Correlation Programme and the Programme on Management of Social Transformations.

99. In the framework of the Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity network, research is being carried out on the status of the coastal ecosystems in the region, for example concerning the relation between overfishing and the degradation of coral reefs. The Coast and Beach Stability Project for the Lesser Antilles continued its support for the establishment and supervision of coastal monitoring programmes for several small islands.

(d) Freshwater resources

100. Rational use of freshwater resources has been the subject of a number of activities organized by UNESCO in the various small island developing States subregions; specific project-related information is contained in the addendum (A/50/422/Add.1).

(e) Land resources

101. Among the activities of the Man and Biosphere Programme, studies on integrated forests, agroforestry and cropland management in small islands are under way. Preservation of biological diversity in forests and coastal ecosystems is encouraged. Action plans are being developed to tackle threatened plants.

(f) Energy resources

102. In relation to energy resources, policy frameworks are promoted and information materials disseminated regarding renewable and solar energy. These activities are carried out in the context of the World Solar Summit process.

(g) Science and technology

103. The management of environmental risks is addressed by undertakings in the fields of marine, oceanographic and earth sciences. The IOC Global Programme on Global Ocean Observing System, which was recognized by UNCED as an essential environmental monitoring component, carries out activities aiming at achieving operational systems capable of covering more effectively such issues as global environmental and climate change.

(h) Human resources development

104. Capacity-building to promote sustainable development in small islands is encouraged through UNESCO educational, cultural, scientific and communication programmes. Technical cooperation is extended through international and regional cooperative projects. A new UNESCO Project on Environment, Population, Education, and Information for Human Development is expected to utilize existing interdisciplinary and inter-agency frameworks. Promotion of education is pursued at all levels, formal and non-formal. The establishment of communication structures, including for distance education aimed at producing trained communicators and building island production capacities, continues. The UNESCO-led World Decade for Cultural Development helps to address the cultural dimensions of development in small island States.

3. World Health Organization

105. Activities undertaken by the World Health Organization (WHO) in support of the Programme of Action are summarized below; they are additional to those previously reported (A/49/425 and Add.1), which continue.

(a) Natural and environmental disasters

106. The WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO) has been conducting a series of workshops on health support for disaster management to strengthen national capabilities to prepare for and cope with natural and environmental disasters. As a result, national action and activities were initiated in a number of countries in 1995, including Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

(b) Management of wastes

107. WPRO has initiated a project on solid waste disposal in Pacific island countries and areas to demonstrate appropriate solid-waste disposal methods; the project will culminate in the preparation of guidelines on the subject for use by island countries and areas. The countries selected for this purpose are Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

(c) Freshwater resources

108. The new WHO guidelines for drinking water quality for the Pacific island countries/areas and their adoption were promoted with a view to setting national standards. As a result, Fiji, Tonga and Cook Islands adopted national standards of their own.

(d) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

109. WHO and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) supported the Pan American Conference on Health and Environment in Sustainable Human Development (Washington, D.C., 1-3 October 1994), which addressed various questions concerning small island States. The subject of small island States was on the agenda of the Third Meeting of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (Barbados, October 1994) to which WHO contributed, with particular reference to the health implications, inter alia, of climate change and sealevel rise, and natural and environmental disasters.

(e) Human resource development

110. WPRO conducted a workshop on training approaches in the promotion of health through environmental health (Sydney, 17-25 July 1995). Twelve of the participants were from six Pacific island countries and areas. WPRO is also collaborating with the Samoa and Solomon Islands Governments to review the curriculum and training of assistant health inspectors. WPRO, in collaboration with the UNDP/World Bank Regional Water and Sanitation Project Team based in Jakarta, conducted an assessment of human resource development needs as well as training opportunities in the following Pacific island countries and areas: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Samoa. Efforts are also under way to develop a Fiji school of medicine as a potential regional human resource to assist in tackling such challenges as health promotion, disease prevention and care of the environment, including water, sanitation and waste disposal.

4. World Bank

111. World Bank activities in the areas of human resource development, sustainable infrastructure, waste management, environmental management, natural resources management and policy reform continue as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1).

112. Since the adoption of the Programme of Action in 1994, the World Bank has provided financing in the amount of $186.3 million to 21 small island developing

States through both World Bank and GEF projects. The focus of these projects is consonant with provisions in the Programme of Action related to climate change, energy efficiency, including renewable energy sources and related technologies, waste and watershed management, biodiversity protection, regional institutional cooperation, human resource development, technical assistance and monitoring. In addition, the Bank is actively involved in major international initiatives for coral reef protection and management and the adoption of a strategic approach to marine biodiversity conservation within the framework of protected area management. Information provided by the World Bank on project-related activities is contained in an addendum (A/50/422/Add.1).

5. International Monetary Fund

113. The substantive areas of the Programme of Action lie outside the immediate mandate of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, in the context of its discussions with island member countries during consultations and/or use of IMF resources discussions, IMF will continue to pay close attention to their environmental and other concerns as reflected in the Programme of Action.

6. International Civil Aviation Organization

114. ICAO activities continue as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1). In addition, ICAO has reported that at its eleventh session (Montreal, May 1995), the ICAO Facilitation Division, after considering the question of disinfection of aircraft, recommended limitations on aerosol spraying in aircraft cabins while passengers and crew are on board, and called for a comprehensive review of pertinent WHO regulations. The Division also sought joint ICAO/WHO guidance to minimize disruption of international air service during epidemics.

7. International Telecommunication Union

115. The activities of ITU continue as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1).

8. International Trade Centre

116. As the United Nations body mandated to provide assistance to developing countries in export development and import management, the International Trade Centre (ITC) of UNCTAD/the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), while not having a specific programme for small island developing States, can offer cooperation assistance, within its six core services, in the following technical areas: export product and market development; development of trade support services; trade information; human resource development; international purchasing and supply management; needs assessment and programme design. At present, ITC is implementing several projects of technical cooperation with a number of small island developing countries in Africa and the South Pacific, in the following areas:

(a) National institutions and administrative capacity

117. Ongoing and planned capacity-building activities for the management of export development and international purchasing and supply management in Cape Verde, Mauritius and a number of islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific, including improving knowledge and strengthening capacities of government trade strategy decision makers; upgrading knowledge and skills of both private and public sector enterprise personnel in techniques of exporting and importing; improving structures and trade support facilities and services; building permanent capacity in national institutions for trade-related human resource development.

(b) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

118. Ongoing and planned activities in small island developing States are focused on strengthening the capacity of regional and subregional institutions in the areas of trade expansion and diversification, including providing institutional support for export development and import management. These activities are carried out in collaboration with the regional commissions and regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies.

(c) Human resource development

119. Small island developing countries have benefited in the past and will continue to benefit, from ITC human resource development programmes and training materials which are focused on:

(a) Activities to strengthen the capacity of national, subregional and regional training institutions in building up a permanent capacity to design and present training courses in all aspects of export development and import management, through the training of trainers and the design of training materials, manuals, case studies and visual aids;

(b) Activities on direct training in trade-related subjects for government personnel involved in national trade promotion, and in the techniques and operations of export and import trade for the business community;

(c) Organizing short-term in-service training for trainees from developing countries in technical institutions in other countries/regions;

(d) Publication of specialized training materials, manuals, guides, case studies, training packages, videos and business games.

9. International Maritime Organization

120. Although IMO measures with respect to maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment are not generally aimed specifically at small island developing States, by virtue of their relatively long coastlines and proximity to the marine environment they stand to gain from most IMO measures such as those aimed at the prevention of pollution from ships, routing measures, collision prevention regulations and improved radio communications.

121. As the only international body for establishing and adopting measures on an international level concerning the routing and establishment of areas to be avoided by ships, IMO is looking into the possibility of instituting measures for avoiding pollution from specialized ships through the establishment of areas to be avoided by oil, chemical or liquified gas tankers in the vicinity of certain environmentally sensitive sea areas in small island developing States.

122. Other measures of direct relevance to small island developing States are the establishment of regional pollution combating centres, direct assistance in the event of serious spills involving polluting substances, and the conduct of seminars, workshops and courses on various subjects relating to maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment. Work is under way to develop a liability insurance scheme in cases where damage is suffered through hazardous and noxious substances carried by ships. Efforts are continuing to establish regional maritime coordination networks in eastern and southern Africa and the South Pacific. Such networks, if established, would benefit a number of small island developing countries.

10. World Meteorological Organization

123. WMO has plans and programmes in nine of the priority areas of the Programme of Action: "Climate change and sealevel rise", "Natural and environmental disasters", "Freshwater resources", "Energy resources", "Tourism resources", "National institutions and administrative capacity", "Regional institutions and technical cooperation", "Science and technology", and "Human resource development". The activities of WMO continue as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1). New information supplied by the organization is described below and in an addendum (A/50/422/Add.1).

(a) Natural and environmental disasters

124. Under the World Weather Watch Programme (WWW), all WMO member countries and territories cooperate and share responsibilities in the generation and world wide exchange of meteorological observations, forecast products and information based on agreed upon standards, procedures and practices as well as shared infrastructure. This programme provides basic information and services for other WMO and international programmes, such as those related to tropical cyclones and other natural and environmental disasters. WWW also includes transfer of technology and other support activities to assist developing countries in acquiring at least the minimum equipment and capabilities for operating their own national meteorological services.

125. Through its Public Weather Services Programme, WMO provides guidance and assistance to its members, especially those vulnerable to natural disasters, such as the small island developing States, thus fulfilling one of its primary roles: the provision of public weather services, in particular forecasts and warnings of adverse phenomenon in support of safety of life and property and for the welfare and convenience of the people.

(b) Land resources

126. WMO implements the Agricultural Meteorology Programme which supports food and agricultural production and services by providing assistance in establishing meteorological and related services to the agricultural community. The main theme of the WMO Commission for agricultural meteorology is "operational agrometeorology for sustainable, environmentally friendly and economically viable agricultural production".

11. World Intellectual Property Organization

127. WIPO plans to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action, as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1), remain unchanged.

12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

128. UNIDO activities continue as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1). In addition, UNIDO has supplied the information provided below.

(a) Management of wastes

129. UNIDO has extensive experience in waste management, focusing on industrial waste reduction/prevention, treatment and control. Technical assistance is provided at the policy, institutional and enterprise levels within the frameworks of cleaner production and industrial environmental management.

(b) Coastal and marine resources

130. In promoting industrial development in small island developing States, UNIDO recognizes the importance of marine and coastal resources as a base for industrialization. Assistance is provided in the field of industrial and technology policy formulation and awareness-building, small- and medium-scale enterprise development, investment promotion, and technical assistance at a sectoral level.

(c) Freshwater resources

131. UNIDO provides technical assistance in the field of industrial water management, focusing on efficient industrial water usage, waste-water treatment and recycling. Other areas include seawater desalination technology.

(d) Energy resources

132. UNIDO work on energy-related industrial issues seek to assist developing countries in developing cost-effective energy systems and infrastructure to support industrial development, reducing the environmental impacts of energy development and meeting their commitments under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. As part of this programme, UNIDO is promoting the utilization of new and renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, biomass and ocean

wave energy and the development of related energy technologies. Specific programmes address the needs of small island developing States.

(e) Biodiversity resources

133. UNIDO is planning to increase its awareness-building and promotional activities in the field of bio-safety and the sustainable utilization of biological resources, and provides technical expertise for the establishment of national biotechnology and biodiversity development programmes.

(f) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

134. Promotion of a cluster of services for small island developing States is directed towards providing industrial information, regional cooperation mechanisms, technology management, business development, and innovation and industrial investment promotion. UNIDO is planning a feasibility study in the eastern Caribbean on remote sensing and decision support technologies for integrated coastal area management. In the Mediterranean, UNIDO is carrying out a feasibility study for the establishment of a North-South business development centre focusing on the marine industries sector. The concept is being considered for other regions, such as the Caribbean and Indian Ocean.

13. Universal Postal Union

135. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) will assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action in the area of communication within the framework of the guiding policy principles for cooperation adopted by the Universal Postal Congress (UPC) for the period 1996-2000. UPC has decided to accord priority to the least developed countries, followed by the lower-middle income countries. It has requested UPU organs (a) to take the necessary measures to enable UPU to continue providing assistance to least developed countries in the area of development of postal services; (b) to allocate the highest possible proportion of UPU resources to the least developed countries; (c) to monitor continuously the general situation of the post office in least developed countries and to report to it at its next session; and (d) to help the least developed countries to enhance their capacity for deriving further revenues from philately, international accounting and new services. All those measures will benefit small island developing States that are classified as least developed. Moreover, UPU has created a post of Regional Adviser for the Caribbean, which will become operational in January 1996. During the meeting of the postmasters-general and the Conference of Ministers responsible for postal services in the Caribbean in April 1994, it was decided to intensify efforts for the creation of a Caribbean Postal Union, in collaboration with and with the assistance of the European Union and regional organizations, notably the Caribbean Forum of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States. UPU proposes to notify regional advisers of assistance to be provided to small island developing States.

14. International Fund for Agricultural Development

136. In accordance with its lending policies and criteria, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has mainly provided financing for projects and programmes that are specifically designed to introduce, expand or improve food production systems and to strengthen related policies and institutions within the framework of national priorities and strategies. In allocating its resources, IFAD is guided by the need to increase food production in the poorest food-deficit countries, the potential for increasing food production in other developing countries, and the importance of increasing the nutritional levels of the poorest populations in the developing countries and improving the conditions of their lives. Since most IFAD small island developing country members are poor food-deficit countries, IFAD has devoted particular attention to the development of such countries.

137. From 1978 to July 1995, IFAD provided 25 loans to small island developing States, for a total of 44.4 million special drawing rights. Of these, 80 per cent were provided on highly concessional terms, another 16 per cent on intermediate terms and 4 per cent on ordinary terms. Such loans amount to some 1.3 per cent of a total of US$ 4,216.7 million for the 413 loans that IFAD has provided in respect of 402 projects in 104 member countries over the last 13 years.

15. International Atomic Energy Agency

138. The International Atomic Energy Agency-Marine Environment Laboratory (IAEA-MEL) is intensifying its activities in small island developing States. It is involved in pilot monitoring programmes (e.g., using corals as historical recorders of micro-pollutants) as well as in capacity-building and quality assurance activities in island States of the Caribbean and East African region. IAEA supports studies involving isotopic and nuclear techniques to study retrospective conditions (climate, sea level, pollution) and to provide time scales for small island evolution. Project-related information provided by the organization is included in an addendum (A/50/422/Add.1).

D. Regional commissions

1. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

139. ESCAP has undertaken specific actions in priority programme areas to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as described below.

(a) Transport and communication

140. The ESCAP project on inter-island shipping, as reported previously (A/49/425), continues. An additional project has just commenced to develop policy options for the replacement of the ageing ships in the Pacific island fleets.

(b) Tourism resources

141. Special efforts are being made to assist Pacific island countries in strengthening national capabilities in integrated tourism planning. A workshop on integrated tourism planning in Pacific island countries was held at Port Vila, Vanuatu, in June 1995. Guidelines on integrated tourism planning in Pacific island countries will be completed in 1995. Efforts continue to assist Pacific island countries in strengthening national capabilities to create a favourable investment climate in the tourism sector. A study entitled "Investment and economic cooperation in the tourism sector in Pacific island countries", 4/ as well as studies on foreign investment in the tourism sector in Samoa and Vanuatu, were published in 1995. A project to undertake a study on land-tenure issues related to tourism development in Pacific island countries has been prepared and is awaiting funding.

(c) Natural and environmental disasters

142. Continuing coordination with the IDNDR secretariat and the Department of Humanitarian Assistance is being maintained to improve natural disaster preparedness and response in the Pacific.

(d) Science and technology

143. Small island developing States of the Pacific are rich in natural resources, and their proper monitoring demands the use of space technology. In order to disseminate such technology, a remote sensing/GIS workshop for land and marine resources and environment management in the Pacific subregion was held in Suva, Fiji from 13 to 17 February 1995. Participants from 18 countries, including the 14 Pacific small island developing States, attended. The objectives of the workshop were to expose senior officials to new developments in remote sensing/GIS applications, formulate a subregional action plan and to promote the use of remote sensing and GIS technology for development. A project portfolio consisting of eight projects was also developed, covering various thematic applications, training and data reception, for further implementation under the regional space applications programme, with financial support from donors.

144. The Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific (Beijing, 1992) launched the regional space applications programme for sustainable development, which contains specific programme areas tailored to meet the requirements and peculiar situations of island countries.

(e) Land resources

145. Most small island countries are characterized by limited land resources and are dependent on the agricultural and fisheries sectors for livelihood. In order to make the agricultural sector more efficient, ESCAP is promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development by building the capacities of small island developing States in planning and implementing rural development activities. Moreover, advisory services are provided in promoting the environmentally friendly use of agrochemicals. The dissemination of information on agrochemicals continues; such information includes new developments in

agrochemicals, market and price situations, and the protection of land resources. Studies are planned to identify available land resources and their proper use. Recommendations emerging from the studies will assist Governments in policy formulation.

(f) National institutions and administrative capacity

146. A programme of work focusing on sustainable development issues and their integration into economic decision-making is being developed. The aim of the overall project is to provide technical assistance on the institutional setting and policy modalities for integrating environmental considerations into macroeconomic decision-making processes. The project covers Pacific island countries, as well as some other developing countries of Asia. It is proposed to conduct country studies, as well as subregional and regional workshops to share experiences. Supporting research involves a case study involving two Pacific island countries on the formulation and implementation of policies for promoting sustainable development, focusing on population growth and mobility, urbanization, international trade, agricultural production, and energy and transport costs.

147. The ESCAP/Pacific Operation Centre assists SPREP in the implementation of its Capacity 21 programme, including the design and conduct of workshops. Moreover, the Centre is working to incorporate the essence of this training into other activities, such as advisory services to small island countries on development finance and regional and national planning. It is also providing advisory services to the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the South Pacific Forum (SPF), including recommendations for rationalizing the management of marine resources among SPF, the Forum Fisheries Agency and the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC).

(g) Human resource development

148. The ESCAP secretariat is currently implementing a programme on the theme "Reaching the poor through government/non-governmental organizations cooperation in the planning and delivery of human resource development services". As part of the activities under that programme, a national workshop is scheduled to be held in Papua New Guinea. The objective of the workshop will be to enhance the linkages between government agencies and non-governmental organizations in planning and implementing human resource development programmes. The participants in the workshop will be government officials and non-governmental organizations personnel responsible for planning and implementing human resource development programmes. Moreover, in pursuance of ESCAP resolution 51/10 of 1 May 1995, resources are also being mobilized to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a Pacific subregional training centre for drug demand reduction.

149. The ESCAP secretariat is involving small island countries in regional preparations for Habitat II and its follow-up, by inviting them to address their particular concerns and formulate suitable intervention at the Second Asia Pacific Urban Forum. Local authorities from small island countries are also being encouraged to join - as some have already - the Network of Local

Authorities for Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET) through which ESCAP is channelling assistance in urban management.

150. In addition, a study on maritime manpower resources in the ESCAP region is being carried out, to identify the requirements for and availability of trained and qualified seafarers to meet the growing world shortage. This study will highlight the employment potential for seafarers from small island developing countries, and the economic benefits that may be derived from the training and supply of seafarers to international shipping.

2. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

(a) Coastal and marine resources

151. ECLAC is developing a project proposal on the four essential elements and components of information - availability of information, effective means of delivery, responsiveness to user needs and effective use of information - geared towards coastal conservation. To that end, the project will establish a mechanism to provide individuals and groups of users with access to environment-related information that is integrated with indicators for economic and social policy-making in Caribbean countries. The project will also seek to enhance the ECLAC/AMBIONET system as an effective tool for delivering information and responding to the demand for the effective use of such information by the public and private sectors.

(b) Energy resources

152. In collaboration with UNESCO and the Centre for Environment and Development of the University of the West Indies (UWICED), the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST) convened a high-level regional workshop on renewable energy technologies (Saint Lucia, 5-9 December 1994), to discuss the role of renewable energy in the development process of the region in the context of sustainable development. Delegates to the meeting focused on the scope of the utilization of renewable energy as against conventional energy sources, as well as on the need to improve dialogue and awareness of the respective problems faced by the principal users of energy. The meeting adopted a model energy policy and a resolution on renewable energy. The workshop brought together participants from member countries, as well as representatives from many energy-based industries involved in the production and use of energy.

(c) Tourism resources

153. ECLAC work in this area continues as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1). Additional work in sustainable tourism includes the preparation of chapters of a textbook and research on economic instruments for tourism development.

(d) National institutions and administrative capacity

154. As part of its programme of work for this biennium, ECLAC is carrying out a critical examination of the availability of environmental information in the

Caribbean and an assessment of implications for planning and decision-making. This environmental database is intended to increase the awareness of member states of work in the field of environment and development. It will seek to organize environmental statistics for the region and offer a directory on the sources of the information.

155. In order to focus on issues emanating from the Global Conference and to carry out its mandate to increase hemispheric cooperation, the ECLAC secretariat has included in its work programme two new subprogrammes on the promotion of cooperation among member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Council (CDCC) and between the Caribbean and Latin America and island developing countries; both subprogrammes will focus on the promotion of cooperation in functional and sectoral areas among the member countries of the Caribbean and countries of Latin America. The ECLAC programme of work will also include the needs of the non-independent Caribbean countries, which will be addressed within the broad framework of the analysis of issues related to island developing countries in the subregion and the review of initiatives taken to foster the integration of the member countries of CDCC within the wider Caribbean as well as with other countries of Latin America.

(e) Regional institutions and technical cooperation

156. In collaboration with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UWICED, UNEP and UNDP, ECLAC convened a Caribbean meeting of experts on implementation of the Programme of Action in May 1995 to discuss constraints on effective implementation and to agree on priority areas for action. The meeting identified immediate sectoral priorities for the Caribbean region and for institutional arrangements for regional coordination in, inter alia, the following priority areas: "Management of wastes, "Land resources", "Coastal and marine resources", and "Natural and environmental disasters".

157. ECLAC has initiated activities that would strengthen its cooperation and collaboration with regional institutions and other United Nation agencies. To that end, there is active collaboration with UWICED, the UNEP Caribbean Environment Plan and UNDP in the implementation of work in the field of environment and development. ECLAC has signed memoranda of understanding with CARICOM, UWI, UNEP and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

(f) Science and technology

158. ECLAC is responding to the Programme of Action through activities carried out under the aegis of CCST. CCST assists member countries in their elaboration of science and technology policy and in increasing national science and technology capacities.

(g) National institutions and administrative capacity

159. ECLAC is continuing to develop its programme on information gathering and dissemination. It has put into place a communications package emphasizing the use of the UNECLAC/AMBIONET Electronic Information Exchange System. This system

allows access to more than 33 libraries. It also connected to outside databases and other information systems through INTERNET.

(h) Human resource development

160. The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean currently executes a project funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the integration of population policies into development planning in the Caribbean subregion. Included in this project is a study on the migratory patterns of Caribbean peoples and a study on teenage fertility in selected Caribbean countries. A regional project on education, training and employment for teenage mothers in the Caribbean has been submitted to UNFPA for funding. CCST has presented a training workshop on project preparation and management for scientists in the region, and the Caribbean Documentation Centre has offered training workshops in the use of the CDS/ISIS and ECLAC/AMBIONET systems of operations.

161. ECLAC also undertakes activities related to the integration of women in development, focusing its attention on a range of issues of particular importance to the development of women in the Caribbean, as well as on the incorporation of population concerns and issues in the design of social and economic development plans. In addition, ECLAC continues to work in close collaboration with regional and national non-governmental organizations, and offers technical support in developing their programmes of work.

3. Economic Commission for Africa

162. The activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continue as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1). In addition, consultations are under way between ECA and UNDP at the country level for possible joint activities in identifying, within the context of national workshops in the five African small island developing States, areas for building critical human and institutional capacities, as suggested in paragraph 129 of the Programme of Action. Such activities will benefit from those of the ongoing ECA framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa. The focus will be on capacity-building in (a) environmental economics and resource accounting; (b) impact assessment; (c) development of the relevant legislative frameworks; (d) vulnerability assessment; and (e) resource mobilization. Consultations are also ongoing between ECA and UNDP for a joint regional workshop on unmet priorities within the Programme of Action in Africa. A regional workshop will be held during 1995 to examine the report on unmet priority assessment being prepared by UNDP and a framework for an African regional programme of action. A number of ECA programmes are already responding to elements of the global Programme of Action. Information on ECA technical assistance to the African small island developing States is included in an addendum (A/40/422/Add.1).

4. Economic Commission for Europe

163. The activities of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) continue as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1).

5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

164. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has indicated that it is involved in the management of supply/demand of water resources in Bahrain, which depends mainly on groundwater for its water supply, supplemented by desalinated water and some treated effluent.

II. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. United Nations

1. Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

165. The responsibilities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and follow-up to the Global Conference are being carried out by the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

166. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122, a small island developing States Unit has been established within the Division for Sustainable Development. Essentially, the Unit is responsible for four broad functions: (a) to provide substantive secretariat support to intergovernmental and inter-agency processes related to the monitoring, review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action; (b) to act as a liaison or focal point for Governments and organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system on matters related to the follow-up to the Global Conference and the implementation of the Programme of Action; (c) to prepare reports for the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant bodies on the implementation of the Programme of Action; and (d) to provide support, as appropriate, to other activities emanating from the Programme of Action. The Unit is currently staffed by a Chief of Unit and a Sustainable Development Officer at the Professional level, supported by one General Service staff member. The Unit functions as a focal point within the Department on issues related to the Programme of Action, with the responsibilities outlined above. The Department is coordinating the implementation of the Programme of Action through the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development which, at its 6th meeting (Geneva, 12-14 July 1995), took decisions on the modalities of system-wide coordination on the recommendations of the Department.

2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

167. UNCTAD is planning to make new institutional arrangements to carry out the aspects of the Programme of Action that fall within its mandate when its capacity is strengthened.

3. United Nations Environment Programme

168. No new institutional arrangements have been put in place since those previously reported (see A/49/425 and Add.1). UNEP designated a focal point with respect to the Global Conference and its follow-up activities, including implementation of the Programme of Action, in 1993, and immediately following the Global Conference a joint UNEP/Habitat task force was established. It is anticipated that the task force will oversee the development of a programmatic approach to the implementation of small island developing States activities within the 1996-1997 work programme of UNEP.

4. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

169. Habitat has designated a focal point with respect to the follow-up activities for the implementation of the Programme of Action. A joint UNEP/ Habitat task force is active in coordinating inter-agency policies and strategies for the execution of activities in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States.

B. Funds and programmes

1. United Nations Development Programme

170. The Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries has been designated to coordinate within UNDP the follow-up on the implementation of the Programme of Action. In this capacity, the Unit will work closely with the various bureaux at UNDP headquarters and the UNDP country offices responsible for small island developing States to ensure effective follow-up activities.

2. United Nations Population Fund

171. No new institutional arrangements are envisaged by UNFPA to implement the Programme of Action within those areas relevant to its mandate.

3. United Nations Children's Fund

172. UNICEF will utilize its existing institutional arrangements to support the implementation of the Programme of Action. In addition, a focal point has been established within the Environment Unit to facilitate the coordination of activities regarding small island developing States. These arrangements reflect the organization's response to Agenda 21, which has parallels with the Programme of Action.

4. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

173. UNDCP will implement the Programme of Action through its existing institutional arrangements.

C. Specialized agencies

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

174. The Director-General of FAO has incorporated the recommendations of the Programme of Action into the FAO programme of work, and has created two subregional offices, one for the South Pacific and one for the Caribbean.

2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

175. Prior to the Global Conference, the UNESCO Director-General established a focal point for relations with small island States within the Bureau for External Relations. The focal point will be responsible for facilitating relations with small island developing States in all matters relating to follow-up to the Global Conference. In addition, as part of his overall coordination responsibility for UNCED follow-up, the Director of the Bureau for Coordination of Environmental Programmes will also be responsible for follow-up to the Global Conference in terms of ensuring effective internal and inter-agency programme coordination.

3. World Health Organization

176. The WHO global strategy and related action plan are being implemented by WHO through its headquarters and regional offices. The American and western Pacific regional offices are the main offices dealing at an operational level with small island developing States, because of their proximity to the Caribbean and South Pacific regions, respectively. The western Pacific office recently established an environmental health unit in Fiji, which will focus on the problems faced by the Pacific island countries. WHO offices in Africa, South-East Asia and the eastern Mediterranean will also be involved in supporting those small island developing States that fall within their area of operations. Also, a new Division for Emergency and Humanitarian Action has been established, which is intended to strengthen the capabilities of WHO in the area of natural and environmental disasters. In addition, an Associate Professional Officer (APO-Environmental Engineer) was posted in Samoa to provide closer collaboration also with American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. Efforts are under way to post an APO with environmental skills and knowledge in Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia to support community water and sanitation activities, as well as other environmental health activities.

4. World Bank

177. Existing World Bank institutional arrangements are supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action. An institutional focal point for small island developing States has been designated.

5. International Monetary Fund

178. IMF envisages no special institutional arrangements, because the substantive areas of the Programme of Action lie outside its immediate mandate.

6. International Civil Aviation Organization

179. ICAO will support the implementation of the Programme of Action through its existing institutional arrangements.

7. International Telecommunication Union

180. The development of technical assistance programmes for small island developing States is carried out by the Telecommunication Development Bureau, which is the development arm of ITU. The Bureau has regional and subregional offices in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa. The Caribbean subregion will be served by the Barbados area office, while the Pacific will be served by the area office at Jakarta. Activities will be coordinated at ITU headquarters at Geneva, where a focal point on small island developing States will be established.

8. International Trade Centre

181. Activities for assistance to small island developing countries are planned and implemented by ITC utilizing, in the main, the resources of its existing institutional structure, supplemented by extrabudgetary funds, when available. No new institutional arrangements are envisaged by ITC to implement the Programme of Action within those areas relevant to its mandate.

9. International Maritime Organization

182. Efforts are continuing to establish regional maritime coordination networks in eastern and southern Africa, and in the South Pacific. These networks, if established, would benefit a number of small island developing States.

10. World Meteorological Organization

183. WMO institutional arrangements to support the implementation of the Programme of Action are included, to the extent possible, within its existing scientific and technical programmes. WMO has designated the Director of the

World Weather Watch Department as the focal point for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

11. World Intellectual Property Organization

184. The World Intellectual Property Organization will utilize its existing institutional arrangements to support implementation of the Programme of Action.

12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

185. UNIDO will implement the Programme of Action within its existing institutional arrangements.

13. International Fund for Agricultural Development

186. Existing IFAD institutional arrangements will support the implementation of the Programme of Action.

D. Regional commissions

1. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

187. A mechanism for the consultation and pooling of limited resources through regional cooperation between United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, bilateral donors and international organizations already exists in Asia and the Pacific, through the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. In June 1994, the Inter-agency Committee considered the outcome of the Global Conference, and decided that it would facilitate the coordination and implementation of the Programme of Action, as requested in paragraph 132 of the Programme of Action. In this connection, it was agreed that the Inter-agency Committee working group would review the priority areas of the Programme of Action and identify projects for joint implementation by the Committee members. ESCAP has also set up a special body on Pacific island States to facilitate ongoing consultations with those States.

188. In addition, ESCAP has established the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre at Port Vila, Vanuatu, with a small complement of core staff. Its professional expertise is made available to the small island developing States in the Asia and the Pacific region through that Centre. The Centre, as well as various substantive divisions of ESCAP, also cooperate with other South Pacific regional organizations in the delivery of their programmes, including the South Pacific Forum, the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, the South Pacific Commission, the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the University of the South Pacific, the Pacific Islands Development Programme and the Tourism Council of the South Pacific. Efforts are being made to further strengthen the capacity of the Pacific Operations Centre to provide technical assistance to member countries.

2. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

189. ECLAC activities in relation to small island developing States involve its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago, and the programme of work of the Natural Resources and Energy Division. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat is responsible for guiding and promoting the economic and social development of those Caribbean countries that are members of CDCC, consisting mainly of small island developing States. An integral part of the programme is being accomplished through programme elements on environment and development of small island developing States. The secretariat has been mandated, at a regional meeting convened to consider the status of the implementation of the Programme of Action, to establish, jointly with CARICOM, a regional coordinating mechanism to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action.

3. Economic Commission for Europe

190. Existing ECE institutional arrangements can support and accommodate activities to implement the Programme of Action. ECE activities will continue as reported previously (A/49/425 and Add.1).

4. Economic Commission for Africa

191. In an effort to implement the Programme of Action with immediate effect, ECA will endeavour to implement some of its proposed actions within ongoing programmes and existing resources. However, additional resources will be needed in two areas: the provision of advisory services and data collection, and missions and training seminars and workshops. Additional resources will also be needed for coordination, including consultancies and participation by African women, and for providing increased access to resources in both the formal and informal sectors.

III. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

192. The responses summarized above indicate that the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system are committed to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. They have incorporated the elements of the Programme of Action that fall within their respective mandates into their work programmes, and have begun to implement projects to meet the priorities identified in the Programme of Action. The scope of activities undertaken varies among the different organizations and bodies depending on the extent to which the priority areas of the Programme of Action are covered by their respective mandates.

193. The information contained in the present report and an addendum (A/50/422/Add.1) on the plans and programmes of the United Nations system, which is additional to that contained in the previous report (A/49/425 and Add.1), shows that several organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have reformulated their work programmes in direct response to the provisions of the Programme of Action. It also shows that several of them have expanded their

plans and programmes since their submissions for the preparation of the previous report. The present report contains information on the activities of several organizations - UPU, ITC, IDNDR/Department of Humanitarian Affairs, IFAD, UNU and INSTRAW - for the first time; many of those activities represent new initiatives under the Programme of Action.

194. The ongoing and planned activities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, taken together, cover all the programme areas - sectoral and cross-sectoral - of the Programme of Action. In multisectoral areas, such as tourism, while the activities of no single organization or body cover all dimensions, their cumulative activities - if sustained and adequately funded - will go a long way towards meeting the provisions of the Programme of Action.

195. In the area of regional coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action, four regional bodies - ECE, ESCAP, ECLAC and ECA - have reported that they have taken initiatives to fulfil their mandates. ESCAP and ECLAC have held regional meetings to identify immediate regional priorities, and have established coordination mechanisms in collaboration with regional intergovernmental organizations. ECA has reported that it is in consultation with UNDP at the country level regarding possible joint activities to identify, through national workshops in the five African small island developing States, ways to build human and institutional capacities, as well as a possible joint regional workshop on current priorities under the Programme of Action. Regarding coordination at the international level, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development has established mechanisms for system-wide coordination through IACSD.

196. As to specific responsibilities under the Programme of Action, UNDP has reported that it is actively pursuing the refinement and operationalization of SIDS/NET and SIDS/TAP in consultation with small island developing States and other interested parties, and the Department has taken the initiative, in collaboration with UNCTAD, to organize an in-session panel discussion on trade-related issues affecting small island developing States and to explore approaches to the development of a vulnerability index.

197. It is expected that the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system will further sharpen the focus of their activities under the Programme of Action on the basis of decisions taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, in 1996.

198. Of the organizations and bodies included in the present report, nine have reported that they will implement the Programme of Action through existing institutional arrangements. UNCTAD and ECA have indicated that they need additional resources to establish appropriate new institutional mechanisms. All the others have established new mechanisms, which vary among the different organizations and bodies, to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Notes

1/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

3/ Report of the Interregional Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Christ Church, Barbados, 7-10 April 1992 (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1993), Part III.

4/ ESCAP Tourism Review, No. 13 (ST/ESCAP/1386).

ANNEX

List of organizations that responded to the request for inputs to the present report

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
3. World Health Organization
4. World Bank
5. International Monetary Fund
6. International Civil Aviation Organization
7. Universal Postal Union
8. World Meterological Organization
9. International Telecommunication Union
10. International Maritime Organization
11. World Intellectual Property Organization
12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization
13. International Atomic Energy Agency
14. International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT)
15. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
16. United Nations Environment Programme
17. United Nations Children's Fund
18. United Nations Development Programme
19. World Food Programme
20. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
21. United Nations Population Fund
22. United Nations International Drug Control Programme
23. Economic Commission for Europe
24. Economic Commission for Africa
25. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
26. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
27. International Fund for Agricultural Development
28. United Nations University
29. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

30. Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat/ International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

31. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

UNITED NATIONS

A

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Item 20 (b) of the provisional agenda*

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 49/21 A of 2 December 1994, the General Assembly expressed concern at the persisting special economic problems confronting States, in particular the States that border the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the other Danube riparian States and all other States adversely affected by the severance of their economic relations with the Federal Republic and the disruption of traditional transport and communications links in that part of Europe. At the same time, the Assembly recognized the urgent need for a concerted response from the international community to deal more effectively with the special economic problems of the affected States in view of their magnitude and the adverse impact of the sanctions on those States.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly invited the international financial institutions to continue to pay special attention to the economic problems of the affected States arising from the implementation of the sanctions and their adverse social impact and to consider, inter alia, how the existing facilities of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) might be helpful to the States concerned, with a view to alleviating their special economic problems, and how consultative group meetings of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the countries in question, scheduled for 1995, might further help to mobilize additional resources to mitigate the losses and costs incurred by those countries. The Assembly also requested the competent organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to take into consideration, in programming their development activities, the special needs of the affected States and to consider providing assistance to them from their special programme resources. Further, the Assembly renewed its appeal to all States on an urgent basis to provide immediate technical, financial and material assistance to the affected States to mitigate the adverse effect on their economies of the application of the sanctions, inter alia, through consideration of the provision of assistance for the promotion of the exports of the affected countries and for the promotion of investments in those countries.

3. Furthermore, the General Assembly, in the same resolution, requested the Secretary-General to continue to seek, on a regular basis, information from States and the concerned organs and agencies of the United Nations system on action taken to alleviate the special economic problems of the affected States and to report thereon to the Security Council, as well as to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its fiftieth session. The present report was prepared in response to that request.

II. BACKGROUND: RECENT ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL

4. The report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/25036) regarding the question of special economic problems of States as a result of sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations (A/48/573-S/26705) contains a section (see paras. 39-46) on the initial action taken by the Security Council, under the provisions of Article 50 of the Charter, in response to requests for assistance submitted by eight States affected by the sanctions against the Federal Republic

of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Moreover, the background information on the matter was updated for the period ending 1 August 1994 in the previous report of the Secretary-General on "economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" (A/49/356, chap. II). Since then, the Security Council and its Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia have taken a series of steps that may have a direct or indirect bearing on the neighbouring and other affected States. The relevant decisions adopted by the Council and the Committee from August 1994 to August 1995 are reviewed below.

A. Action taken by the Security Council

5. During the period under review, the Security Council adopted a number of decisions aimed at fine-tuning the sanctions regime against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) with a view to maximizing its political impact and minimizing its collateral damage to the neighbouring and other affected countries. As regards the latter, it has been the Council's practice to grant partial or limited exemptions from the sanctions under exceptional circumstances, on a case-by-case basis, and under appropriate forms of monitoring or control. In several cases, such measures were taken by the Council in response to requests from the neighbouring and other Danube riparian States.

6. By its resolution 943 (1994) of 23 September 1994, the Security Council decided, inter alia, to suspend, for an initial period of 100 days and subject to the effective closure of the international border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with respect to all goods except foodstuffs, medical supplies and clothing for essential humanitarian needs, the relevant restrictions relating to (a) all civilian passenger flights to and from Belgrade; (b) the ferry service between Bar in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bari in Italy; and (c) participation in sporting and cultural exchanges. Subsequently, the Security Council, by its resolutions 970 (1995) of 12 January 1995, 988 (1995) of 21 April 1995 and 1003 (1995) of 5 July 1995, extended the suspension of those restrictions until 18 September 1995.

7. In a letter dated 14 December 1994 (S/1994/1418) from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia, the Council was informed of a major resurgence of diphtheria in several countries in central Asia and eastern Europe, and of the fact that the only available stocks of anti-serum to combat that serious condition were located in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). In view of the exceptional humanitarian circumstances of the situation, the Security Council adopted, on the same day, resolution 967 (1994) permitting, for a period of 30 days, the export of 12,000 vials of diphtheria anti-serum from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) as an exemption from the mandatory sanctions against that country, in particular from subparagraph 4 (a) of resolution 757 (1992).

8. Following another recommendation of the Committee, contained in a letter dated 8 May 1995 (S/1995/372) from its Chairman, the Security Council made a temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 16 of resolution 820 (1993) relating to the restrictions for navigation on the Danube River. By its resolution 992 (1995) of 11 May 1995, the Security Council decided, inter alia, to permit the use by vessels of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of the locks of the Iron Gates I system on the left-hand bank of the Danube while repairs were carried out to the locks on the right-hand bank. This measure was adopted in view of the exceptional circumstances and at the request of Romania, supported by other Danube riparian States, the Danube Commission and the European Union/Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (EU/OSCE) Sanctions Coordinator, who stressed the importance for safe international navigation on the Danube of the Iron Gates I system being properly maintained and repaired in a timely manner. The resolution came into force on 23 June 1995 and, upon the expiration of the initial period of 60 days, has remained in effect for another period of 60 days (22 August-20 October 1995), after the Committee had notified the Council that such further period was required for completion of the necessary repairs (S/1995/705).

9. In the same resolution, the Security Council recalled statements made by its President on the freedom of navigation on the Danube, in particular that made on 13 October 1993 (S/26572), and noted that flag States may submit claims to the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for reimbursement of tolls illegally imposed on their vessels transiting the section of the Danube that passes through the territory of the Federal Republic.

10. In other related developments, the Security Council requested, on several occasions, that its Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia adopt appropriate streamlined procedures for expediting its consideration of applications concerning legitimate humanitarian assistance, as well as proposals aimed at making the procedures of the Committee more transparent. By its resolution 1003 (1995), the Security Council noted with satisfaction that the Committee had adopted streamlined procedures for expediting its consideration of applications concerning legitimate humanitarian assistance, as well as a number of measures facilitating legitimate transshipments via the Danube River. These steps are outlined below.

B. Action taken by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia

11. The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia has the central responsibility of monitoring the compliance with, and assisting in the implementation of, the mandatory sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). 1/ In accordance with the revised consolidated guidelines for the conduct of its work, the Committee deals with a wide range of incoming communications, including those that contain notifications to, or requests for authorization by, the Committee for certain activities with regard to the Federal Republic. A substantial proportion of those applications comes from the neighbouring countries, the Danube riparian countries and other affected countries in the region, and involves their economic interests.

12. During the period under review, the Committee authorized, as limited exemptions from the sanctions regime under exceptional circumstances, a number of specific requests from several States adversely affected by the sanctions. These include:

(a) A request from Albania for the transit passage from Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, through the electric power grid of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), of 10 million kilowatt hours per day for the period of one month;

(b) Requests from Hungary for the activities of Hungarian ice-breakers on the Yugoslav reaches of the Danube River, and for the supply of a certain amount of fuel for the operation of those ice-breakers; and for the transshipment through the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of a dredging vessel from Slovakia, via the Danube and Tisza Rivers;

(c) A request from Romania to deliver to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) certain amounts of fuel oil, diesel oil and motor oil for the exclusive purpose of ensuring the normal functioning of the Iron Gates hydroelectric and navigation system on the Danube;

(d) Requests from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the removal of 13,000 tons of welded steel pipes from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), where the consignment was blocked since August-September 1992, while in transit; for the transit of three electric motor trains through the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); and for the transshipment through the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of 10,500 metric tons of railway tracks from Ukraine.

13. By its resolution 943 (1994), the Security Council invited the Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia to adopt appropriate streamlined procedures for expediting its consideration of applications concerning legitimate humanitarian assistance. By Security Council resolutions 970 (1995) and 988 (1995), the Committee was requested to expedite that work and to give priority to its consideration of applications concerning legitimate humanitarian assistance.

14. In response, the Committee set up an informal working group to devise appropriate streamlined procedures. On 1 February 1995, the Committee decided that applications from international and non-governmental humanitarian agencies, as well as applications concerning the personal belongings of individuals, should be processed on a priority basis. It was also decided that requests from international humanitarian agencies for the transshipment of humanitarian items through the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) by land would be considered under the "no-objection" procedure.

15. On 27 June 1995, following its 126th meeting, the Committee approved a series of additional recommendations of its working group on its streamlined rules and procedures, which should be read in conjunction with the revised consolidated guidelines of the Committee for the conduct of its work. The first group of these improvements, aimed at expediting matters, includes the following measures:

(a) As of 1 August 1995, the Committee's application forms for exports to, or transshipments through, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) have been amended to include: (i) space for the itemization of goods and information on their end-use or end-user; (ii) space for inclusion of the appropriate six-digit harmonized international tariff code; and (iii) a notice indicating that applications should be accompanied by supporting financial information such as bona fide contracts, letters of credit or other documentation demonstrating a similar intent to enter into a transaction. Applications providing this information, when appropriate, receive priority processing by the Committee, with a view to speeding up their consideration and the passage of goods at the authorized border-crossing points;

(b) Kalotina and Dragoman in Bulgaria are now treated by the Committee as a single border-crossing point;

(c) The period of validity of the Committee's letters of acknowledgement and approval has been extended from three to six months, with no extensions permitted (however, fresh applications for the same goods could, if necessary, be made at the end of the six-month period).

16. Of particular importance to the neighbouring and other affected countries in the region is a second group of measures, which are intended to facilitate legitimate transshipments via the Danube River. In response to information and assurances received from the Sanctions Assistance Missions Communications Centre (SAMCOMM) in Brussels, the Committee decided to consider requests from States for authorizations for specified shipping companies to transship unlimited quantities of certain materials along the Danube under a set of specific conditions designed to ensure appropriate monitoring and control. Among them, a potentially positive economic impact on the affected countries may have the following provisions:

(a) Goods that can be considered for authorization under these new procedures are iron ore and aggregates (sand, gravel, slag), non-coking coal, steel coils and slabs. Goods should be described on applications in accordance with normal customs procedures; the Committee will review the list after three months; if no violations take place under the new procedures, it may decide, at that time, to extend them;

(b) Shipping companies making applications to transship goods via the Danube under the new procedures must have a clear record of activity on the Danube; the Committee will rely on the advice of States and bodies and organizations such as the Danube Commission and SAMCOMM for this purpose;

(c) States, with the assistance of SAMCOMM, must continue to make full inspections of all vessels and shipments on the Danube. The Committee requests States, with the assistance of SAMCOMM, to undertake full monitoring at Calafat (Romania)/Vidin (Bulgaria) and at Mohács (Hungary). Vessels inspected at loading and sealed by the Ukrainian authorities with the assistance of SAM Ukraine at Ismail need not be reinspected unless this is considered necessary by the local authorities on the basis of information supplied by SAMCOMM or for other reasons;

(d) The Committee does not require the presence of monitors on board vessels authorized by it to transship the products permitted under this new procedure. However, the shipping companies concerned should instruct their ship masters to provide information to SAM/Western European Union debriefing teams.

17. By a note verbale dated 3 July 1995 (SCA/8/95(11)), the Chairman of the Committee apprised all States of the adoption by the Committee of its streamlined rules and procedures and of the Committee's decision to review all those procedures after a three-month trial period. Under cover of a letter dated 17 July 1995, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs communicated, on behalf of the Committee's Chairman, the same information to the competent organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system as well as other international organizations concerned. It was the Committee's belief that the new procedures would significantly reduce the delays in its consideration of applications concerning legitimate humanitarian assistance and would facilitate legitimate trade on the Danube. The Committee also decided to consider further ways in which humanitarian deliveries could be expedited and to keep the question of restrictions on trade on the Danube under close review.

18. At its 126th meeting, held on 27 June 1995, the Committee put in place a number of measures aimed at making the Committee's procedures more transparent, as recommended by the Security Council in the note of its President dated 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234). To that end, the Committee decided, inter alia, to increase the practice of issuing press releases reflecting the most important matters discussed at the meetings. The Committee also decided to make available to any delegation lists indicating the status of communications processed under the "no-objection" procedure, as well as lists of major decisions adopted by the Committee at its meetings, to be prepared on a monthly basis. An annual report to the Security Council on the Committee's activities would also be prepared. The implementation of these measures should significantly increase the transparency of the Committee's procedures in the conduct of its work and further enhance the Committee's effectiveness in carrying out the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council.

C. Follow-up to "An Agenda for Peace"

19. In the document entitled "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace: position paper of the Secretary-General on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations" (A/50/60-S/1995/1), the Secretary-General highlighted, inter alia, key issues in the area of sanctions as one of the instruments for peace and security "where unforeseen, or only partly foreseen, difficulties have arisen and where there is a need for the Member States to take the 'hard decisions'" (para. 6). In paragraph 73 of the report, the Secretary-General noted that "there is an urgent need for action to respond to the expectations raised by Article 50 of the Charter. Sanctions are a measure taken collectively by the United Nations to maintain or restore international peace and security. The costs involved in their application, like other such costs (e.g., for peacemaking and peace-keeping activities), should be borne equitably by all Member States and not exclusively by the few who have the misfortune to be neighbours or major economic partners of the target country".

20. In order to address the problems in the area of sanctions, the Secretary-General suggested the establishment at the United Nations Secretariat of a mechanism to carry out several important functions in that regard. In particular, the proposed mechanism would assist the Council to assess the potential impact of sanctions, to measure their effects and to explore ways of assisting Member States that are suffering collateral damage and to evaluate claims submitted by such States under Article 50. To this end, it should be empowered to utilize the expertise available throughout the United Nations system, in particular that of the Bretton Woods institutions.

21. The Security Council considered the position paper of the Secretary-General (A/50/60-S/1995/1) at its 3492nd and 3503rd meetings, held on 18 and 19 January and 22 February 1995, respectively.

22. In a statement on behalf of the Security Council, made by its President on 22 February 1995 (S/PRST/1995/9), it was the Council's position that appropriate consideration should be given to submissions received from neighbouring or other States affected by special economic problems as a result of the imposition of sanctions. In the same statement, the Council urged the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to reinforce those sections of the Secretariat dealing directly with sanctions and their various aspects so as to ensure that all these matters be addressed in as effective, consistent and timely a manner as possible. Further, the Council welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to study ways and means of addressing the various aspects related to sanctions.

23. In a letter dated 31 May 1995, addressed to the Secretary-General (S/1995/440), the President of the Security Council stated, inter alia, that the members of the Council welcomed the recent increase in staff to support the sanctions committees, and looked forward to a report in due course on whether that increase had decreased the backlog in processing applications to these committees.

III. INFORMATION REGARDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE AFFECTED STATES

24. Originally, the reporting procedure on information regarding economic assistance provided by the international community to States adversely affected by the implementation of sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) was established by the Secretary-General pursuant to the relevant recommendations of the Security Council (S/26040 and Add.1 and 2). In a series of communications addressed, during 1993-1994, to all States as well as to the competent organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions and the regional development banks, the Secretary-General requested them to provide him, on a regular basis, with information on action taken or contemplated by them to alleviate the special economic problems of the affected States (see A/49/356, para. 10).

25. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/21 A, entitled "Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)", a note verbale by the Secretary-General was circulated

on 9 May 1995 to Governments inviting them to submit information on the matter. In addition, by a set of letters dated 16 May 1995, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis requested, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the competent organs, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, as well as the regional organizations concerned, to furnish him updated information on the activities undertaken by them in response to the relevant provisions of the resolution. Substantive features of the replies are outlined below.

A. Information received from States

26. As of 1 September 1995, the Secretary-General had received replies to the note verbale from seven States, namely, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In addition, five affected countries, Bulgaria, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, addressed, collectively or individually, letters to the Secretary-General regarding the negative impact of the sanctions on their economies, as indicated below.

1. Affected countries

27. In a letter dated 18 April 1995 (S/1995/313), the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General and the members of the Security Council that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine had adopted, on 14 April 1995, in Athens, a joint statement, by which they had agreed to undertake a collective démarche to the Secretary-General and the Security Council addressing the issue of the negative impact of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) both on the affected countries and on the region as a whole. In the statement, the Ministers asserted, inter alia, that, by virtue of the geographical situation of their countries, the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) had caused significant direct and indirect losses to their economies, and that the burden of the sanctions was exceeding the reasonable point of economic and social tolerance. Moreover, the implementation of the sanctions, in their view, could have a considerable long-term negative impact on the overall political, economic, security and social situation in the affected third countries and the region as a whole.

28. In a letter dated 18 May 1995 (A/50/189-S/1995/412), the Permanent Representatives of Bulgaria, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine to the United Nations, on behalf of their Ministers for Foreign Affairs, transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter related to the special economic problems of States directly affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing trade and economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The letter outlines a number of steps that should be taken, in their opinion, as a matter of priority. These include: (a) speeding up the procedures for processing the applications, as well as general enhancement of the capabilities of the Sanctions Committee, with

a view to treating most expeditiously and on a priority basis the numerous submissions of the affected States; (b) easing the access of companies from the interested affected countries to orders by United Nations humanitarian organizations for rendering humanitarian assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); (c) allocation of additional financial resources in order to carry out long-term transport infrastructure projects; (d) additional measures or special assistance projects in the areas of telecommunications, energy, water supply, environment etc.; (e) enhanced technical assistance and analytical support of the international financial institutions for the objective estimate of losses and their impact on the balance of payments and the national economies of the affected countries; and (f) elaboration of a special mechanism to address effectively and systematically the adverse effects of sanctions on non-target States. With regard to points (c) and (d) above, the letter proposes to convene a special meeting with the participation of the relevant programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, the major donor countries and the interested affected States.

29. Under cover of a letter of 27 June 1995 (A/50/259-S/1995/517), the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations transmitted to the Secretary-General a letter dated 8 June 1995 from the President of Ukraine concerning a number of proposals for alleviating the negative impact on third countries of sanctions imposed by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The proposed economic measures to be undertaken by the international community would include: (a) opening special credit lines by international financial institutions to render direct financial assistance to third countries to support technical projects carried out in those countries; (b) introduction by the donor countries, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, of trade preferences for third countries, including promotion of their exports; and (c) donor-country support, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, of investments in the economies of third countries, special preference being given to the sectors that sustain direct losses from the sanctions. In addition, the letter draws attention to an urgent need for further consideration at the United Nations of several other proposals, such as the establishment of an effective mechanism based on Article 50 of the Charter to solve special economic problems, which would include a voluntary compensation fund; reduction of the affected countries' dues for financing peace-keeping operations by the amount of losses incurred by those countries as a result of the sanctions regime; and creation of a standing sanctions committee of the Security Council.

2. Donor countries

30. On the other hand, the donor countries that replied to the Secretary-General's note verbale shared, in general, the concern about the persisting special economic problems of States adversely affected by the severance of their economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the disruption of traditional transport and communications links in the region. While reaffirming their strong commitment to the sanctions regime as an important instrument of preventive diplomacy, most of these countries recognized, in principle, the need to provide assistance to the affected States to mitigate the adverse effects of the sanctions on their

economies. In this connection, the critical role of the international financial institutions, as well as the special regional arrangements in support of the affected countries, was highlighted and welcomed in several communications.

31. Some donor States (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom) provided specific information on their financial and technical assistance to the countries in question. Some other countries (Finland and Luxembourg) stated that they had not taken any specific action to alleviate the special economic problems of the affected States.

32. Belgium has focused its relevant bilateral assistance on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This includes technical assistance in the amount of 15 million Belgian francs provided for border-crossing development, as well as a package of 50 million Belgian francs as financial support of the balance of payments, rendered by the Belgian Government in the framework of the assistance plan of the European Union, adopted at the Edimbourg Summit in December 1992.

33. France has been channelling its assistance to the affected countries in the region through the PHARE (Pologne-Hongrie: Assistance à la restructuration économique) programme, in order to ensure aid coordination with its European Union partners. In accordance with the particular concerns expressed by the affected countries at the relevant OSCE meetings, these efforts have focused on infrastructure-development projects in the countries with economies in transition. Since 1991, the budget of the PHARE programme has been growing at an average annual rate of 5.5 per cent, and, for 1995, will reach a total of 962 million European currency units (ECUs) or 6.7 billion French francs. The French contribution to the programme will amount to 1.3 billion French francs. At the same time, France has continuously stressed the need to improve the functioning of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia through strengthening its secretariat and streamlining its procedures to expedite its consideration of applications for legitimate humanitarian assistance. These efforts would also contribute to alleviating the economic difficulties of the affected States.

34. As a Danube riparian State, Germany has stated that it has also been adversely affected by the economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). From 1990 to 1993, German exports to the former Yugoslavia decreased from 8.2 billion deutsche marks to DM 4.7 billion, and its imports from this territory also dropped, from DM 7.3 billion to DM 4.8 billion. None the less, Germany has provided comprehensive assistance to other countries economically affected by the sanctions, in particular to the countries that border the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). In the context of its technical assistance to these countries, Germany has endeavoured to take into account the effects of the sanctions by: (a) providing technical support for the development of infrastructure (the most important example is the construction of the railroad line between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria); (b) organizing and hosting events to promote and strengthen the export capacity of Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Hungary; (c) fostering the development of business contacts (e.g., participation in trade fairs in Bulgaria and Romania); and

(d) promoting small and medium-sized enterprises (e.g., through seminars on investment promotion, held recently in Albania and Hungary).

35. Germany has also reported aggregated data on its direct bilateral assistance, in 1993-1994, to the following countries: Albania (DM 46.4 million), Bulgaria (DM 85.2 million), Croatia (DM 372.3 million), Hungary (DM 1,179.8 million), Romania (DM 905.9 million) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (DM 95.2 million). In addition, the German share of assistance provided by the European Union is 28 per cent. Accordingly, the German contributions for the period 1990-1994 in this context are as follows: DM 260.4 million for Albania, DM 548.8 million for Bulgaria, DM 935.1 million for Hungary (from 1989), DM 105.8 million for Slovenia, DM 712.8 million for Romania and DM 34.7 million for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

36. Italy has expanded its bilateral humanitarian relief programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina (in the amount of 5 billion lire), Croatia (3 billion lire), Slovenia (3 billion lire), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (5 billion lire) and Ukraine (2 billion lire). As regards economic assistance, Italy is the major bilateral donor for Albania in its current cooperation programme focused on the rehabilitation of infrastructure, agricultural development, development support and restructuring of the health system. Since December 1994, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has become a beneficiary under the provisions of Law 49/87 on Italy's development cooperation; it is also expected to receive balance-of-payments support on concessional terms. Initiatives have been taken in Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure assistance in the reconstruction of war-damaged housing facilities and to provide shelter for refugees. To facilitate trade, talks are under way with Bulgaria to reopen two credit lines (each for $200 million) that were frozen in March 1990.

37. In the framework of the European Union, Italy has contributed 1.8 billion lire to a fund to be utilized for a master plan of feasibility studies for the East-West transport corridor between the Black Sea and the Adriatic as an alternative to the ground and river routes via the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Other projects include the starting up of a monitoring system of the traffic flow in central Europe (at a cost of 2.8 billion lire), a training programme in commercial law (3.7 billion lire) and a study for the creation of industrial areas in Slovakia (initial contribution of 95 million lire).

38. The United Kingdom has provided detailed data on its assistance to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. At the bilateral level, budget allocations to the Know-how Fund for 1995-1996 are as follows: £800,000 for Albania; £2.6 million for Bulgaria (in addition to £2.2 million in 1994-1995); £4.5 million for Hungary (£5.5 million in 1994-1995); £4.5 million for Romania (£4 million in 1994-1995); £800,000 for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and £7 million for Ukraine (£5.5 million in 1994-1995). Further, a total of more than £1 million has been allocated in 1994-1996 for scholarships to these six countries, and their aggregated share in 1994-1995 allocations for BBC World Service has amounted to £6.6 million. Furthermore, British Council allocations comprise the following: £110,000 for Albania (1995-1996); £2.1 million for Bulgaria (1993-1994);

£5.6 million for Hungary (1994-1995); £2.7 million for Romania (1994-1995); £760,000 for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (1995-1996); and more than £1 million for Ukraine (1995-1996).

39. At the multilateral level, the United Kingdom has been participating in the assistance programmes of the European Union and operations of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), as well as in IMF and World Bank lending to the affected countries. The United Kingdom's share of 16 per cent accounts for its contribution to the PHARE programme in the amount of 266.4 million ECUs (£224.5 million) committed for 1990-1994 for Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and 53.6 million ECUs (£44 million) allocated for 1995 for the same group of countries. In the case of Ukraine, the United Kingdom's share (also 16 per cent) in the Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) programme totals £21.6 million committed for 1991-1995, and the participation of the United Kingdom in EU support for energy sector reform, food and medical supplies loan and balance-of-payments assistance involves an additional 114.4 million ECUs.

B. Response of the United Nations system

40. As of 1 September 1995, updated information on the matter had been provided by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

1. World Bank

41. The World Bank has initiated wide-ranging programmes of support to the countries of central and eastern Europe that have been affected by the implementation of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Assistance to the affected countries - whether they formally invoked Article 50 of the Charter or not - is provided in a variety of ways, including balance-of-payments support, project financing and technical cooperation. In view of the appeals for special economic assistance, these programmes have been reviewed, on a case-by-case basis, to make them as responsive as possible to the particular needs of the affected countries. For example, during the Consultative Group meetings for Bulgaria and Romania of May 1993, as well as the 1994 Consultative Group meetings for Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the assessment of the cost of the sanctions to those countries was discussed in the context of the need to mobilize additional financial resources. Within the priorities of the investment programmes of the affected countries, several projects have been redesigned to take into account the need to upgrade and diversify alternate trading routes.

42. In Albania, the Bank has supported economic reforms with its Critical Imports Project, which initially addressed the shortages and main supply-side constraints, and later provided support for the stabilization of the economy and stimulation of the supply response. To support the balance of payments, a

quick-disbursing operation for enterprise and financial-sector adjustment is being implemented. The Bank is also supervising a transport loan, which is mainly aimed at rehabilitating existing roads and should contribute directly to the improvement of the East-West transport corridor from Bulgaria to the Adriatic. This first transport sector investment will be followed by a second road project to improve the East-West corridor, and an operation to rehabilitate the port of Durrës, Albania's principal port of trade.

43. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, direct financial assistance from the Bank will not be possible until the issues surrounding Bank membership have been resolved. However, the Bank is working, together with EBRD, on a programme of technical assistance and advisory services in planning for eventual reconstruction and economic recovery of the country. This work is being carried out with the support of resources from a small trust fund established at the initiative of the Netherlands.

44. In Bulgaria, the current Bank strategy is to support market reforms, restore external creditworthiness, define a comprehensive approach to protect vulnerable groups, help create and maintain infrastructure and foster a supply response by financing private investment. In this context, the Bank reimbursed a portion of the upfront costs of the Debt and Debt Service Reduction (DDSR) Agreement concluded with Bulgaria's commercial-bank creditors in July 1994, by providing a DDSR loan of $125 million. Bank support was part of a joint effort with IMF to replenish partially Bulgaria's international reserves. Moreover, agreement has been reached with the Government on a railway rehabilitation project (loan amount: $95 million), which would support the railway restructuring programme and enable the railways to operate independently in a commercial manner.

45. In Croatia, the Bank's assistance began with the approval in June 1994 of a reconstruction project (loan amount: $128 million), which is currently being implemented, supporting the Government's priorities in the reconstruction of some war-damaged infrastructure (including roads and railways), agricultural assets, housing and community facilities. A highway project approved in April 1995 (loan amount: $80 million) addresses the overdue rehabilitation and remaining reconstruction of roads. The Bank has also been heavily involved in supporting the Government's economic reforms: a health project supporting public expenditure reform was approved in February 1995 (loan amount: $40 million); a public expenditures adjustment loan is in preparation; and an enterprise and financial sector adjustment loan has recently been appraised.

46. In Hungary, the Bank has provided considerable balance-of-payments support. In the transport sector, two investment projects are under disbursement. Although not directly addressing the loss of markets, the 1993 Roads Project (loan amount: $90 million) focuses on improving the efficiency of public expenditure on roads by supporting improvements in management, programming and planning techniques, increasing the proportion of works carried out by competitive bidding, and addressing the backlog of roads needing rehabilitation. The 1989 Transport II Project (loan amount: $95 million) was designed to reduce transport costs, increase system-wide operational efficiency and raise foreign-exchange earnings by providing important infrastructure, increasing competition in transport markets and upgrading transport technology. Some funding in these

two projects may still be reallocated for improvement of alternative border crossings.

47. In Romania, the Bank continues to provide balance-of-payments support through adjustment lending. It has also been supervising a first transport-sector loan ($120 million), the principal objectives of which are the rehabilitation and maintenance of roads. While not designed explicitly to deal with the effects of the sanctions, the project seeks to ameliorate traffic conditions in the East-West corridor that has experienced the greatest increases in passenger and freight traffic. Under this sector loan, the Bank stands ready to consider allocating resources to finance appropriate subprojects with a strong national priority, including addressing the problems caused by the sanctions.

48. In Slovenia, because of its relatively high per capita income, Bank support has focused on a few high-priority activities. Slovenia had to confront several challenges, including the need to establish fiscal and monetary independence and the lack of access to parts of the former Yugoslav market. Its adjustment to these challenges has been fairly successful owing largely to the country's orientation to western markets. A large part of Bank assistance aims, therefore, at supporting the Government's efforts to complete economic reforms, through an enterprise and financial sector adjustment loan ($80 million), which was approved in July 1993.

49. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Bank has been heavily involved in supporting the Government's market-oriented reforms. In its first operation, the Bank approved, in February 1994, an economic recovery loan/credit ($80 million), half of which came from the International Development Association (IDA) and which is now fully disbursed. In April 1995, the Bank approved a $24 million transit facilitation project, which would upgrade portions of the East-West corridor, and improve the country's border crossings with Albania and Bulgaria. In addition, two operations were approved by the Bank in May 1995 (all on soft IDA terms) in support of the Government's far-reaching programme of reform in the enterprise, banking and social sectors. Such an exceptionally high level of IDA resources was made available in recognition of the country's special circumstances, including the adverse effects of the sanctions. However, the first Consultative Group meeting organized by the Bank in June 1994 did not succeed in mobilizing funds commensurate with the country's urgent needs. It is important, therefore, that the second Consultative Group meeting, planned for September 1995, evoke more substantial financial support by the international community, especially bilateral donors, to this small country, which is most seriously affected by the sanctions.

2. International Monetary Fund

50. The Fund has continued to assist the affected countries through policy advice, including assessment of the estimated impact of the sanctions and the design of an appropriate policy response in the context of the country's overall economic situation. 2/ The Fund has also helped those countries prepare estimates of the financing requirements arising from the application of the sanctions for presentation to donor and creditor groups.

51. By the beginning of 1995, all of the eight countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter of the United Nations - Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Ukraine - had made use of Fund resources during the period of implementation of the sanctions, in support of programmes aimed at addressing their balance-of-payments difficulties. In the second half of 1994, the Fund approved a new Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) and a second purchase under the Systemic Transformation Facility (STF) for Slovakia (total access: $264.3 million), a new annual arrangement under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) for Uganda ($176.8 million) and a first STF purchase for Ukraine ($365.9 million). In the first half of 1995, the Fund approved additional financial assistance, totalling $1.8 billion, for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, in each case involving a new SBA and a second STF purchase. Two other affected countries - Albania and Hungary - whose SBAs expired earlier this year, are discussing new arrangements.

52. From May 1992 to June 1995, Fund disbursements to the eight affected countries amounted to $2.3 billion, including drawings by Albania ($69 million), Bulgaria ($362.2 million), Hungary ($88.3 million), Romania ($381.7 million), Slovakia ($250.7 million), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ($42.5 million), Uganda ($197.5 million) and Ukraine ($901.4 million). An additional $1.9 billion for six countries of the group - Albania ($17 million), Romania ($117.5 million), Slovakia ($130.6 million), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ($30.4 million), Uganda ($135.6 million) and Ukraine ($1.4 billion) - had been approved and could be disbursed according to the timetable adopted under existing arrangements when conditions are met.

53. In providing financial assistance to the affected countries, the Fund has taken into account, inter alia, the strength of the country's economic policies and factors affecting its balance of payments, including estimates of the adverse effects of the sanctions. Relative to the member's quota, access to Fund resources by most of the affected countries has been higher than the average access provided to other countries. In many of those cases, resources have been provided under the Fund's recently established special facility, STF, largely in recognition of the longer-term, systemic nature of the disruptions and particular difficulties related to the transition to a market-based economy.

3. United Nations Development Programme

54. UNDP provided assistance to several affected countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) in the preparation and verification of data related to the economic impact of the application of the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The consultant retained for the purpose submitted a report dated 15 April 1994, and briefed the working group (on Article 50) of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991), at its meeting on 22 July 1994, on the main findings of his missions to the affected countries (see A/49/356, paras. 64-66).

55. At the same time, UNDP has been proceeding with the implementation of its respective regional and country programmes in the region. In addition, UNDP has

undertaken efforts to mobilize additional financial resources on behalf of the affected countries. Starting in late 1993, UNDP received from the Government of the United States of America several successive contributions for a total of more than $5.7 million in support of improving border-crossing facilities and procedures at selected locations in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

56. This programme has been undertaken in the context of the OSCE/EU-sponsored initiative to provide relief to critical customs/border bottlenecks to commercial traffic around the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (see A/49/356, annex II). It is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in close cooperation with the local UNDP representatives, Governments concerned and other donors. The construction process is now being completed at three locations: (a) Giurgiu/Ruse (Romania/Bulgaria); (b) Deve Bair/Gyueshevo (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia/Bulgaria); and (c) Kafasan/Qafa e Thanës (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia/Albania). Additional construction work and studies are also under way in Vidin (Bulgaria) and Calafat (Romania), as well as in Novo Sello (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and port Durrës (Albania).

57. It is noteworthy that Governments of all the affected countries have made significant contributions from their own resources to complement and expand the above-mentioned construction projects in their respective countries. For example, Albania has made a cost-sharing contribution of almost $600,000 to cover additional costs related to the construction of the Qafa e Thanës border-crossing point. Therefore the UNDP Regional Directorate for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, in close collaboration with the affected countries in the region, is actively involved in efforts to mobilize additional internal and external resources to further alleviate the negative effects of the sanctions.

4. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

58. UNCTAD has been involved in several technical assistance programmes with regard to countries affected by the implementation of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), in particular in the areas of trade facilitation and foreign-investment promotion. Thus, UNCTAD's Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) is being implemented in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. Requests for the installation of ASYCUDA have also been received from Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (likely project initiation in October 1995) and Uganda (final negotiations currently under way).

59. Within the context of the UNCTAD-UNDP technical assistance programme, the Albanian Centre for Foreign Investment Promotion (ACFIP) was provided with various equipment. Financing was also provided for ACFIP staff to participate in study tours and meetings concerning investment promotion, foreign investment strategies, tourism and industrial development projects. In addition, UNCTAD assisted ACFIP in developing a promotional brochure for foreign investment in Albania.

5. Economic Commission for Europe

60. The ECE Inland Transport Committee, through its Principal Working Party on Inland Water Transport, noted an urgent need for concrete action to alleviate the difficulties experienced by Danubian and other countries in the region as a result of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). At its thirty-eighth session, in November 1994, the Principal Working Party reiterated its request to the Inland Transport Committee and ECE to take urgent measures with a view to facilitating, to the extent possible, the transit via the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of vessels not entering Yugoslav ports and thus reviving the freedom of navigation on the Danube without hindering the sanctions regime (TRANS/SC.3/135, para. 4).

61. At its fifty-seventh session, in January 1995, the ECE Inland Transport Committee shared the concern of its Principal Working Party with regard to an extremely difficult situation in Danubian shipping as a result of the sanctions, took note of the proposals made in that regard and asked the Commission to come back to that question with a view to mitigating the problem (ECE/TRANS/111, para. 90). Accordingly, the issue was brought to the attention of ECE at its fiftieth session, in April 1995, in order to consider the possibility of compensation for the losses and costs incurred by the affected countries. However, the Commission did not consider the issue since it was felt that the matter was outside the competence of ECE; it was, indeed, taken up directly by the Security Council (see chap. II above).

62. ECE is the executing agency for Pan-European Transport Networks, the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) projects, in central and eastern European countries. As both projects cover several countries affected by the sanctions, efforts have been made to ensure that the TEM and TER projects provide road and rail infrastructures to bypass the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

C. Follow-up to regional initiatives and assistance arrangements

63. During the Special Ad Hoc Meeting of Senior Officials, organized by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) at Vienna from 31 January to 1 February 1994, to identify international projects to assist affected States in the region to better cope with the effects of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (see A/49/356, paras. 68-71), several parties, including the European Union and its member States as well as the United States of America, undertook to ensure a follow-up to a number of infrastructure projects presented by neighbouring and other affected countries. To this end, the contribution of the European Union has focused on the development of the infrastructure network in the region, financed through the PHARE budget, as well as coordination measures in the framework of the Group of 24 countries, especially its Transport Working Group, chaired by the European Commission.

64. The European Union remains committed to support the development of the transport infrastructure and especially the development of alternative transit

routes in the Balkan region. In the 1994 PHARE budget, some 100 million ECUs was committed (in addition to approximately 30 million ECUs allocated in the 1992 and 1993 budgets) for the co-financing of short-term projects in the region for the development/upgrading of the infrastructure, border-crossing modernization and supply of customs control and communication equipment. Thus, the Copenhagen co-financing scheme has opened the way for the PHARE programme to fund major road rehabilitation projects in Bulgaria (10.6 million ECUs), Hungary (15 million ECUs) and Romania (22 million ECUs). Under the cross-border cooperation facility, the PHARE activities also include a multi-country project for infrastructure upgrading and border-crossing modernization in the Balkans (12.3 million ECUs) and smaller-scale country projects for Albania (20 million ECUs), Bulgaria (10 million ECUs), Hungary (8 million ECUs) and Romania (1 million ECUs). 3/ Implementation of most of these projects is well under way and is expected to be finalized before the end of 1995.

65. In order to support the development of realistic priorities for the longer-term development of infrastructure in the region, the Commission has financed a number of pre-investment studies which are currently being implemented. These include: (a) the Balkan Transportation Study, which will develop a simplified transportation and planning model for the region as well as carry out a preliminary analysis of the feasibility of the development of a number of transport corridors; (b) a study on the development of Danube navigability; and (c) a feasibility study for the construction of a new Danube bridge between Romania and Bulgaria. Moreover, PHARE co-financing of a limited number of major infrastructure projects in the region for the period 1995-1999 is currently being examined.

66. At a series of meetings held in the second half of 1994 and the first half of 1995, the European Commission continued its efforts to integrate the short-term priorities identified at Vienna into the ongoing activities and longer-term projects included in the Trans-European Networks (TENs). This concerns, in the first place, the functioning, since 1 June 1994, of the two customs corridors in the Balkans that were originally established as part of a wider initiative to improve transit to and from the Balkan States most seriously affected by the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Eleven countries (Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine) are currently involved in the two customs corridors designed to relieve certain critical bottlenecks and accelerate the transit of traffic through selected border-crossing points in eastern and central Europe. 4/ To this end, efforts have been focused simultaneously on the improvement of infrastructure at the frontier posts, supply of necessary equipment to each border post through a tendering process and simplification of customs procedures and training of staff. A close link has been sought between these customs corridors, the PHARE activities in this area and the transport corridors in order to reduce the waiting time at borders. For example, a special agricultural regime aimed at enabling the rapid transport of perishable foodstuffs from the Balkan countries to markets in western Europe has been established. As a result, the situation has improved, but further efforts remain necessary.

67. The second area of particular concern is the development of transport in the region. The follow-up of the CSCE Vienna meeting on infrastructure was discussed during the general meetings of the Group of 24 Transport Working Group, held at Brussels in September 1994 and January 1995, as well as the regional joint meetings of the Group of 24 Transport and Customs Working Groups, held at Sofia in December 1994 and at Bratislava in March 1995. Special attention should be drawn to the important developments and challenges concerning the transport corridors as defined by the Pan-European Conference of Ministers of Transport, held in Crete in March 1994, and in particular those parts of the Balkans that are covered by corridor 4 (Prague-Budapest-Constanta/ Thessaloniki), corridor 5 (Trieste-Ljubljana-Budapest-Bratislava-Uzhgorod-Lvov), corridor 7 (Danube), Corridor 8 (Durrës-Tirana-Skopje-Sofia-Varna), and corridor 9 (Helsinki-Kiev/Moscow-Odessa/Kishinev/Bucharest-Plovdiv). The discussions on these transport corridors continue in the framework of various meetings intended to ensure the technical and financial aspects of their effective functioning.

68. At its summit meeting in Essen in December 1994, the European Council adopted a broad strategy for the preparation of accession by the associated countries of central and eastern Europe (CEECs) to the European Union. The key element of this pre-accession strategy is the preparation of the associated countries for their integration into the European Union's internal market as outlined in the European Commission's white paper on the issue. The Council further stressed the importance of intraregional cooperation between CEECs themselves and decided, in this context, that the Commission should develop a multi-country programme to eliminate delays at the borders, and that the programming should be done on the basis of an indicative multi-annual budget. 5/ Accordingly, the Commission has reserved a budget of approximately 90-95 million ECUs for 1995-1997 (including some 30 million ECUs on the 1995 budget) for the implementation in PHARE countries of a "consolidated border-crossing programme (transit facilitation)", which deals with further measures for modernization of the infrastructure of border-crossing points on the major transit and customs corridors and upgrading of customs procedures, including training of staff and supply of equipment. The programme also provides for a coordination mechanism within three regional areas, including the south region, where most of the affected countries belong. It is envisaged that, by the end of 1995, all the preparatory studies and priority setting will have been completed.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

69. In the context of its continued efforts to maximize the political impact and to minimize the collateral damage of the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the Security Council has adopted a number of decisions that are particularly relevant to mitigating the special economic problems of the neighbouring and other affected countries. At the request of those countries, the Security Council and its Committee established pursuant to resolution 724 (1991) concerning Yugoslavia have authorized, as partial exemptions from the sanctions regime and under exceptional circumstances, designated transactions or services for specific commodities or products of crucial importance to the neighbouring States as well as the safety of international navigation on the Danube. Moreover, the new streamlined and

more transparent procedures adopted by the Committee should help reduce the delays in its consideration of applications concerning humanitarian assistance and should facilitate legitimate trade on the Danube. The Committee will continue to consider further ways in which all deliveries of humanitarian assistance, including those from the neighbouring and other affected countries, can be expedited and will keep the question of restrictions on trade on the Danube under close review.

70. In a series of communications addressed to the Secretary-General, neighbouring and other affected countries in the region have asserted that, owing to their geographical location and the structure of their economies, they continue to experience special economic problems as a result of the severance of their economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and especially the disruption of traditional transport and communications links in that part of Europe. Although no updated estimates of the incurred losses and costs resulting from the sanctions have been submitted by the affected countries, the heavy burden of the sanctions and their adverse long-term impact on the overall economic and social situation in those countries have been reaffirmed in several communications. To mitigate the collateral damage caused by the sanctions regime to their economies, the affected countries have addressed the international community at large with a wide range of far-reaching and specific proposals that deserve consideration as an urgent and important matter.

71. Because of the small number of responses received by the Secretary-General from the donor States, it is not possible to assess fully the level of bilateral economic assistance provided to the affected countries; nor is it possible in all cases to identify distinctly the amount of assistance directly intended to address their special economic problems arising from the implementation of the sanctions. A large part of the information provided by the donor countries relates to their ongoing assistance activities in support of the transition process in the affected countries and does not indicate a supplement of funds to compensate for the losses and costs incurred by the affected countries as a result of the sanctions. Although many reported projects had not initially been intended as special assistance measures directly aimed at mitigating the negative effects of the sanctions, they should have yielded indirect positive impact on the affected countries.

72. The World Bank and IMF, as well as relevant United Nations bodies and organs (UNDP, UNCTAD and ECE), continue to implement, within their respective mandates, existing facilities and available resources, substantial programmes of financial and technical assistance in the affected countries. In view of the renewed appeals for special economic assistance, these programmes have been reviewed, as appropriate, in order to make them as responsive as possible to the particular problems of the countries concerned. In recognition of the adverse effects of the sanctions on the balance of payments, IMF has undertaken efforts to ensure that the affected countries, when eligible, receive higher than average access to the Fund's resources and that their drawings be made on more favourable terms. Within the priorities of the investment programmes in the affected countries, the World Bank has contemplated, as warranted, redesigning the relevant projects, reallocating funds under existing loans and credits and expanding lending, taking into account sanctions-related concerns. Most

important, however, remains the need to mobilize new and additional financial resources from all potential funding sources, in particular bilateral donors and also the regional development banks, with a view to mitigating, in an effective and timely manner, the adverse impact of the sanctions regime.

73. The CSCE initiative to convene a special meeting at Vienna has resulted in a viable approach towards supporting a number of infrastructure projects in the affected countries and integrating them into a longer-term regional perspective of transport, infrastructure and communications development. The full and timely implementation of donor commitments reached at the Vienna meeting is essential to help the affected States in the region to cope with the disruption of transit traffic caused by the sanctions. However, substantial additional resources are needed to carry out longer-term transport and infrastructure projects. At the regional level, the PHARE and TACIS programmes of the European Union will continue to be crucial in unlocking funds for new projects to be implemented in cooperation with other donors - notably EBRD and the European Investment Bank - through studies, capital grants and, increasingly, direct investment. At the bilateral level, continued financing by donor countries of the improvement of border crossings in the priority corridors would be beneficial to all countries in Europe whose goods and passengers are transiting through these border crossings. Participation of international financial institutions and private-sector involvement, through public-private partnership arrangements, in such projects should be encouraged. Moreover, serious consideration should be given to holding a follow-up meeting to the meeting held at Vienna in early 1994, in order to ensure that the affected countries continue to receive the support of the international community in coping with the adverse effects of the sanctions regime.

Notes

1/ The Committee's present mandate covers the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council on the former Yugoslavia in paragraph 6 of resolution 713 (1991); the mandatory sanctions established by the Security Council against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in paragraphs 4 and 9 of resolution 757 (1992), paragraphs 9 to 11 of resolution 787 (1992), and paragraphs 12 to 30 of resolution 820 (1993), as amended by resolution 943 (1994); and the sanctions imposed by the Security Council in paragraphs 7 to 18 of resolution 942 (1994) against those areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of Bosnian Serb forces.

2/ An internal document entitled "Impact of implementing the United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" was submitted to the IMF Executive Board in December 1994.

3/ These projects relate to the following border stations: Qafa e Thanës and Kakavia in Albania; Ruse, Vidin, Gyueshevo and Kulata in Bulgaria; Nagylac, Rédics and Artand in Hungary; and Calafat, Giurgiu, Nadlac and Bors in Romania.

4/ At a meeting held at Thessaloniki, Greece, in March 1994, all the countries and agencies concerned agreed to establish, subject to the necessary infrastructure improvements and on the basis of the Customs Convention on

International Transport of Goods under the T.I.R. Carnet (1975), two fast-lane customs corridors: first (north-south) customs corridor: Austria-Nickelsdorf/Hungary-Hegyeshálom, Slovenia-Dolga Vas/Hungary-Rédics, Hungary-Artand/Romania-Bors, Romania-Giurgiu/Bulgaria-Ruse, Bulgaria-Kulata/Greece-Promachon, Bulgaria-Kapitan Andreevo/Turkey-Kapikule; second (west-east) customs corridor: Albania-Durrës (port), Albania-Qafa e Thanës/the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia-Kafasan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia-Deve Bair/Bulgaria-Gyueshevo. At the third evaluation meeting, held at Bratislava in March 1995, it was agreed to enlarge the first customs corridor by adding the following border-crossing points: Hungary-Rajka/Slovakia-Rusovce and Hungary-Zahony/Ukraine-Chop.

5/ The Essen Council also decided to increase the possibility of co-financing major infrastructure projects from 15 to 25 per cent of the total annual PHARE commitments. The follow-up discussions on the TACIS programme have been going in the same direction.